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Israel at 50: Special jubilee supplement



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Interview with Binyamin Netanyahu



11 The Magazine
Interview with Yitzhak Mordechai

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Cairo summit yields 'gloom'

By JAY BUSHINSKY and STEVE RODAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's 90-minute summit in Cairo yesterday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak produced a gloomy assessment of the regional peace process from his host. This was not only with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli track, but also regarding Syria's attitude toward renewing its dialogue with Israel, a government source said.

Disregarding the confidence evinced by Netanyahu upon his return that headway can be made if Mubarak exerts his influence on the Palestinian Authority, the source said the Egyptian leader views the current situation as "unsustainable" and discouraging Syrian President Hafez Assad from renewing the talks adjourned 14 months ago.

The source told of an unpunctuated meeting between Mubarak and Assad in which the Syrian leader was said to have "deplored the humiliation to which Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has been subjected for the past 12 months."

See SUMMIT, Page 17



Remembering
Etti Levy, widow of Maj. Binyamin Levy who fell in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, passes the torch to President Ezer Weizman after lighting the memorial flame at the Western Wall last night, at the beginning of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars. Israel's 50th Independence Day starts at the end of Remembrance Day tonight. Story, Page 2. (Brian Hendler)

Currency reform announced

By DAVID HARRIS

From next week, Israelis will be able to carry out any transaction in any currency at home or abroad, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman announced yesterday, at a press conference at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's office (see story, Page 14).

Meanwhile, two foreign financial institutions issued shekel-denominated bonds on the European market for the first time.

The International Finance Corporation sold one-year bonds worth NIS 200 million, while Merrill Lynch sold a further NIS 175m., *Globes* reported.

The central bank's supervisor of foreign currency will next week issue a general permit enabling the following changes:

- Israelis will be allowed to freely invest overseas, including in real estate.
- Citizens and companies will be able to hold bank accounts abroad in shekels or foreign currency. Until now this had been restricted to exporters.
- All restrictions on quantities of unilateral transfers overseas will be abolished. This includes gifts and transfers abroad by residents who emigrate.
- Israelis will be able to make payments here to anyone by cash or check in any currency.
- Israelis will be able to take any sum of shekels out of the country.
- The need to provide documentation when carrying out a transaction in any currency with a non-resident will be abolished. However, documentation will be required at a later date for analyzing capital flow.
- Citizens will be able to use credit cards via overseas intermediaries and not just through local banks.

Along with the new measures, the government intends taxing interest on foreign accounts and on receipts from property rented out by Israelis overseas. Central bank officials say these measures will be put into effect once the required legislation is passed by the Knesset.

See CURRENCY, Page 17

To our readers

Due to the long holiday weekend, the next issue of *The Jerusalem Post* will appear on Sunday, May 3.

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Tel Aviv	6:58 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Haifa	6:52 p.m.	8:01 p.m.
Beer Sheva	6:56 p.m.	7:54 p.m.
Eilat	6:54 p.m.	7:55 p.m.

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Israel celebrates 50 years

By ELLI WOHLGELER and
ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel gets set to kick off its jubilee Independence Day celebrations tonight, as security forces beef up their presence throughout the country.

The nation bows its head today, Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, as it remembers the 18,748 who died defending the state.

The Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday that Israel's population had grown more than sevenfold in the nation's 50 years, from 806,000 to 5,940,000.

Immigration was cited as major factor in the country's growth, with 2.7 million people, accounting for 43 percent of the population growth, having settled in Israel since its founding. Immigrants from the former Soviet Union make up 10.1% of the population.

The IDF has imposed a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip until Sunday morning as a precautionary measure.

Remembrance Day began last night, and continues today, with official ceremonies at military cemeteries beginning after a two-minute siren sounds at 11:00 a.m. Places of entertainment, restaurants and cafes will be closed until tonight.

At last night's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, President Ezer Weizman and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak ushered in the 24 hours of mourning.

"Israelis society is marking 50 years of great accomplishments, but this day serves as a reminder of the heavy price for this war of independence," said Shahak.

Today's main Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at Mt. Herzl; similar ceremonies will take place simultaneously at 41 military cemeteries around the country.

Independence Day celebrations begin tonight with the official torch-lighting ceremony on Mount Herzl at 7:45. Twelve beacons representing the 12 tribes will be lit to mark the close of Remembrance Day and the start of Independence Day.

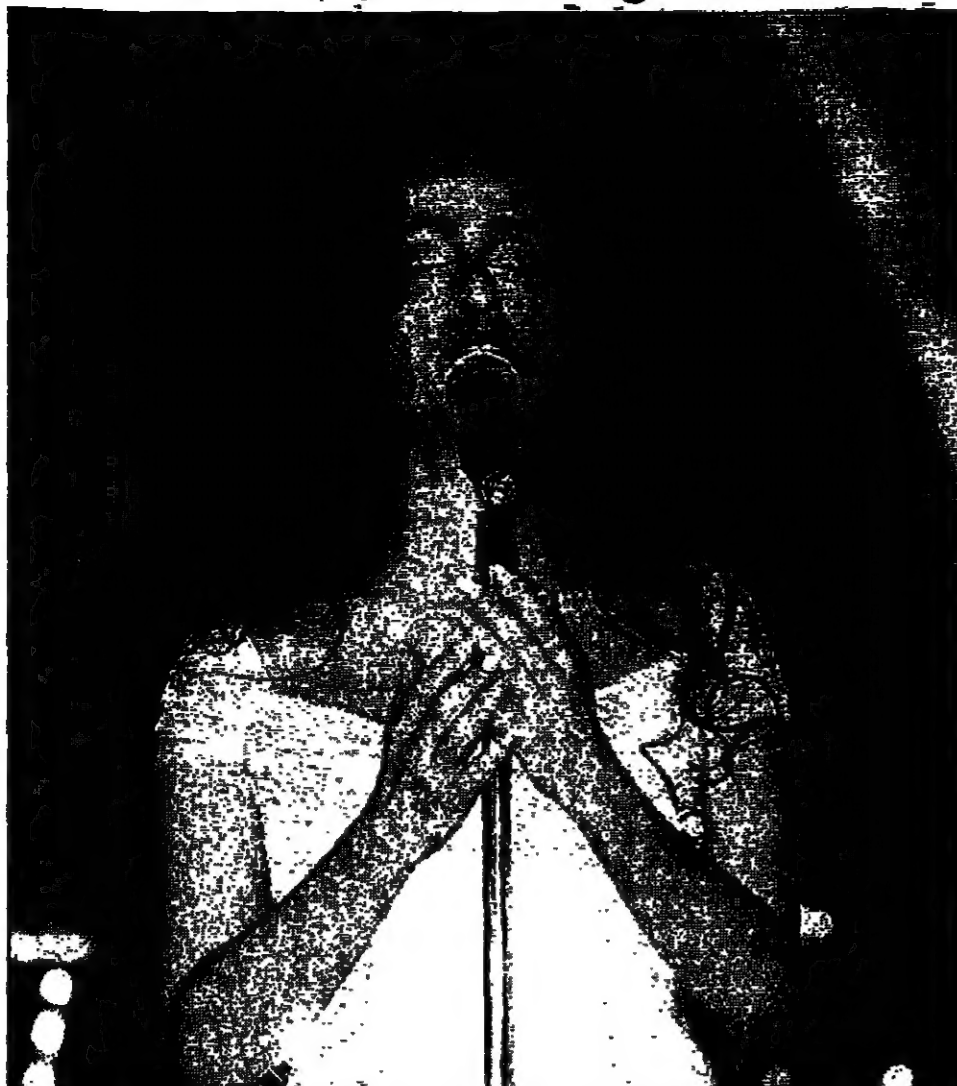
In Jerusalem, thousands of additional policemen will be stationed throughout the city over the holiday.

"Jerusalem is always sensitive, especially on Independence Day," Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said. "We have been planning the security for this holiday during the past half a year... and no event, stage or park will be left unprotected."

He said security would be particularly tight at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram stadium tomorrow night, when national leaders and guests from around the world, including US Vice President Al Gore, attend *Jubilee Bells*, the main entertainment event marking the anniversary.

Some 2,000 policemen, border policemen, Civil Guard volunteers and municipal inspectors, assisted by a helicopter and mounted snipers, will safeguard Independence Day events in Tel Aviv.

Some 800 picnic areas from Megilla to Eilat



Rita, who is to sing the national anthem at tomorrow night's 'Jubilee Bells' event in Jerusalem, rehearses yesterday.

are expected to be packed tomorrow with holidaymakers, as will the country's roads.

Nature protection bodies are calling on hikers to take extra care, following the high number of accidents during the Pessah vacation.

Day-trippers should ensure they have sufficient water with them (between 2 to 5 liters per person) and wear head coverings and sturdy footwear.

With hot weather predicted, residents are also being asked to be extra careful with fire. Politics will also be felt tomorrow. A march and picnic is scheduled to take place at Har Homa, the controversial neighborhood under construction in southeast Jerusalem.

Peace Now has scheduled a counter-demonstration at 2:30 tomorrow at the site.

Other scheduled events tomorrow include the International Bible Quiz for Youth at the Jerusalem Theater, and the awarding of the Israel Prizes. Weizman will hold the traditional Independence Day reception for the diplomat-

ic corps at his residence in the afternoon.

The sea, from Herzliya to Bat Yam, up to 10 kilometers offshore, will be closed from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. for the annual Israel Navy sail-past, to take place from 1 to 2:15. Yachts, motor and sail boats, sea scooters and surfers will not be allowed to leave the shore.

The streets adjacent to the shore will be closed.

In another of those "who-would-have-imagined-50-years-ago" events, the Knesset will tomorrow open a special jubilee year spot on its Internet site (www.knesset.gov.il).

The site will list important events and decisions involving the Knesset from its inception until today.

The Nature Protection and National Parks Authority is running several special activities tomorrow, including free guided tours at many sites.

Ellie Collins and Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.

Uproar over Yizhar's Remembrance Day speech

By MICHAEL YUDEMANN

Author and educator S. Yizhar (Yizhar Smilansky) yesterday apologized for his speech at Tel Aviv University's ceremony for Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars.

Yizhar said in his address there could have been peace in the region if not for the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and called on the younger generation not to accept the current situation.

"There could have been peace in the region. Have you heard? We could have already had peace in this country, had not Rabin been murdered," he said. "Now that peace was within our reach, young people, why do you accept it? It's your life. Let us rise and make it

happen ourselves, let us bring peace on us and on all of Israel, and say Amen."

Yizhar added there could be no settlement without a painful price, "but nothing is more painful than the price of war. The dearest concession is cheaper than war if you think about human beings and not about land: about life, rather than percentages of earth and stone."

Yizhar stressed he did not want to talk of politics, "but it is politics if we could prevent a situation in which a soldier dies every week? Is it politics to ask why there is no peace and why soldiers fall?"

At the end of Yizhar's statement, some parents rose and screamed at him, urging the other parents to leave. "Shame on you,

this is not election day," one mother shouted. "I want a free state and no one will tell me who and what to give back," yelled another. "It's disgusting," shouted another.

But most of the parents remained seated for the rest of the ceremony and some expressed support for Yizhar's statement and applauded.

Yizhar later apologized to any of the parents or families he may have hurt, stressing he had no idea talking about peace could arouse such fury.

"I had no intention of hurting the bereaved families and I'm really sorry if I hurt anyone," Yizhar said to Israel Radio. "I'm still wondering what they could have been offended by."

Erez Eshel, the spokesman of the Students Union, apologized to the parents in the name of the students.

Mahal volunteers arrive for jubilee

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

About 400 Mahal volunteers who fought for Israel's independence are converging on the state to mark its 50th anniversary.

The volunteers will be hosted by top IDF commanders and some will be visiting the old units in which they served.

Around 4,500 men and women from 29 countries in the free world came to Palestine in 1947 and 1948 to help. Most went back after the war, but some 500 of them settled here. Another 119 were killed, including four women. The Mahal volunteers were crucial in setting up the fledgling navy, air force and medical corps.

The Mahal visitors and some of those who stayed will be meeting at Beit Hasefuth on the campus of Tel Aviv University today at 3:30 p.m. in the Duhli Auditorium.

They will be hosted by Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

"Throughout the week the Mahal volunteers will be guests at their old units, including the navy and air force," said Murray Greenfield, a Mahal volunteer who stayed here and helped organize the gathering.

Greenfield said they found that there was a lack of knowledge of the Mahal's contribution among the younger generations in Israel.

"The upper echelon know about us and wanted to do the right thing by us," Greenfield said, who came from New York City. "But the junior officers don't all know what Mahal was. This is like one of those dark secrets. We talked about it. That is one of the reasons to get this story into the press. They don't know that nearly 4,500 people came to help the Jewish state," said Greenfield, author of *The Jew's Secret Fleet*.

Some of the most notable Mahal volunteers were Paul Schulman, the first commander of the Israel Navy and David "Mickey Stone" Marcus, who commanded troops in the battle for Jerusalem but was killed accidentally by an IDF sentry.

A true success story

By HERB KERNON

When David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the state a half century ago, many people doubted it would last 50 days, let alone 50 years.

Not only did Israel survive those harrowing 50 days, it has thrived for 50 years — a feat all the more impressive considering the country was born in armed conflict and has remained that state ever since.

In the jubilee run-up, much has

been written about a lack of joy in the air. Some attribute this to apprehension about the peace process, others to concern about domestic divisions.

But this bleak attitude may be something else entirely — a manifestation of normalcy. As people grow older, birthdays lose their luster. It is not as if people are any less excited to be alive, but that the birthdays — even milestone years — become routine. So too with states.

Jubilee apathy may stem less from disillusionment with the country's direction, and more from a feeling of "another birthday? Okay, now what." Though that sentiment sounds ungrateful, it actually epitomizes Israel's success. That the country's existence, as it enters its 51st year, is considered by most as the natural order of things — a given, no big deal — demonstrates just how far the Jewish state has traveled.

Those born before the state, and to a lesser extent those born outside it, know what a real difference Israel's existence has had on the Jewish condition everywhere. Those born during the last 50 years, and especially those born in Israel, only have a vague idea. To them it is natural that Jews direct their own destiny and deal with statehood's moral dilemmas.

The Zionist dream of building a "normal" country does not have to mean a nation like all others. Perhaps it means a nation whose

very existence is considered part of the natural, normal, order of world.

In that case, Israel has succeeded. It has succeeded through 50 years of unceasing activity: building, creating, defending, attacking, sowing, reaping. It is as if the Jews who congregated on their ancient soil after being stateless for 2,000 years, decided to cram as much into the first half-century as possible; partly to make up for lost time and partly out of fear that if this unique effort fails, a second chance may not present itself for another two millennia.

In five decades Israel has created democratic instruments of state, tilled the land, absorbed refugees, built a powerful army, rejuvenated Jewish learning, developed a robust economy, and revitalized an ancient tongue. All this without one day of absolute peace.

These achievements have demanded a mind-boggling pace that remains mind-boggling to this day. Even follows event in machine-gun, rat-a-tat-tat fashion: war, peace, elections, uprisings, assassination, scandals, terror. The country knows no quiet.

The tempo and vitality resulting from the maddening pace is one attraction of living here. Another is taking part in the formation of the state. This process of state formation is what gives the country's internal quarrels their air of import.

Humorist Ephraim Kishon said recently that in hyper-critical Israel, the country's faults and imperfections are all magnified. It is, he said, like looking at an arm through a magnifying glass and seeing a gruesome mass of bumps and follicles. But move the magnifying glass away, and a wondrous arm appears. Step away from the daily problems that plague Israel, Kishon said, and what emerges is one of the true success stories of the 20th century.

But success does not come without failure. Israel has known its failures. The euphoria of the early years has waned. The idea that we were on the fast-track to utopia has given way to a more realistic image of ourselves. The Jewish state has taught us that, in many ways, Jews are just like everyone else.

But amid all this realism we should not lose sight of the tremendous accomplishments — and there have been many. The next two days afford us a chance to step back and celebrate those accomplishments, to take a moment and see the forest for the trees.

Winning numbers

In this week's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 668721 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 109575 won the car. Tickets 873314, 711746, 146223, 746807, 646089, 873136, 362874 and 675551 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 87633, 01568, 50264, 40558, 64969, 41138, 80718, 40584, 83888, 74725, 24805, 02945, 76154, 69898, 53897, 84879, 89034, 60225 and 26861 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 715, 239, 036 and 714 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 32, 04, 09 and 06 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 25 and 78 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 1 and 8 won NIS 10.

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Jeremiah 32:41

We greatly rejoice with Israel in the miracle of her Jubilee
Year and remember with grief the precious price paid for
Statehood. We trust in the Lord God of Israel to comfort
those who mourn in Zion and look to Him to fulfill His
promises to His chosen people.

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Program

2:30 p.m.	Mincha
3:00 p.m.	Rabbi Aaron Rakeffet
4:15 p.m.	Rabbi David Miller
6:15 p.m.	Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein

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For Further Information
Rabbi Michael K. Strick Tel. 02-643 1688
Shiurim are in English

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. On the agenda: "Where were you 50 years ago?"

BIRTHS

A son to Gali Lipkin Asaf and Amir Beck on April 18, brother to Asaf and grandson to Sarah and Izak Lipkin and Hadda and Izak Beck.

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PM to meet Annan on Lebanon pullout bid

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel's proposal to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425 is expected to be the main topic of discussion in a meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in two weeks.

News of the planned meeting comes amid reports that the government's initiative is gaining momentum, despite continued opposition from Syria and its proxy Lebanon.

According to reports in the Lebanese press, a special working group has been established by the UN, on Annan's instructions, to examine how the organization might become involved in the event the proposal becomes reality. One scenario being examined is the

possibility UNIFIL might have to be expanded and its troops given additional training.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who met with Annan in New York on Monday, told Army Radio yesterday the secretary-general is considering sending a special envoy to the region to discuss the 425 option with the respective parties.

The reports have caused some consternation in Damascus and Beirut, with Syria insisting that neither it nor Lebanon will accept anything less than an unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

Israel is seeking prior arrangements that would guarantee the security of northern communities as well as the safety and wellbeing of South Lebanese Army personnel and their families before implementation of a withdrawal, under

the terms of Resolution 425.

Lebanese newspapers reported recently that Syria and Lebanon are expected to launch a diplomatic offensive to counter any attempts to amend the resolution or accept Israel's interpretation of its terms, especially in light of the fact that UNIFIL's mandate is due for renewal in July.

Meanwhile, the IDF doctor seriously wounded in the security zone on Monday, Lt. Tal Ami-Bar from Mevasseret Zion, is being treated in the intensive care unit of the neurological ward of Haifa's Rambam Hospital. He regained consciousness yesterday and his condition was reported to be improved, but still serious.

The five soldiers wounded with him are all suffering from light injuries and two are expected to be released today.

President Ezer Weizman visited the wounded yesterday and praised the crew of the IAF helicopter that plucked Ami-Bar and two other wounded to safety under fire. Weizman said the crew deserves medals for their bravery.

Four SLA soldiers were also lightly wounded during the fighting on Monday and at least two Hizbullah gunmen were believed to have been killed and several others wounded.

Lebanon has lodged a complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the wounding of a young woman by IDF shelling during the heavy exchanges. Israel has complained that Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and Katyusha rockets from inside or close to villages, including Yatar, Zibikin, and Majdal Zoun, all north of the zone.

The IDF Spokesman announced

yesterday that an elite Egoz unit had been operating in the central sector of the security zone, in the Al-Mane/Shoturiya region on Monday and killed or wounded a number of Hizbullah gunmen.

Hizbullah and Amal fired dozens of mortar rounds at the Egoz soldiers. IDF artillery backed by helicopter gunships returned fire, enabling the Egoz unit to withdraw without suffering any casualties.

Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday awarded a citation to the Egoz unit in recognition of its operations in south Lebanon. The anti-guerrilla unit was established about three years ago primarily to fight against Hizbullah in the zone's difficult terrain. Five soldiers from the unit have been killed in action, killing and wounding dozens of Hizbullah gunmen.

Zalman Shoval appointed as envoy to US for second time

By JAY BUSHNICKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday named Zalman Shoval as Israel's next ambassador to the United States, recalling that he "fulfilled that role with great success in the past" and predicting he would once again.

The announcement, made at a news conference that dealt mainly with the government's foreign currency reforms, coincided with Shoval's 68th birthday.

"I accept with humility," said the veteran diplomat, Likud activist and businessman. Netanyahu made the appointment in his current capacity as foreign minister, a post he has held since David Levy's resignation in January.

Shoval will replace the incumbent envoy, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who is being reassigned as ambassador to France to succeed Avi Pazner this summer. Netanyahu praised Ben-Elissar as well. "He is an excellent ambassador who enjoys my full confidence," he said.

Asked about a local press report that the Washington assignment, regarded as the most important in Israeli diplomacy, had been earmarked for the IDF's chief of staff,



Zalman Shoval (Ariel Jerolimsky)

Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, the Prime Minister responded: "Where do you get such nonsense?"

Shoval served as ambassador to the US from 1990 to 1993 under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He will be exempt from the usual procedures designed for political appointees because he was confirmed by the Foreign Ministry body concerned eight years ago.

Israel, Poland form committee to test helicopter upgrade

By STEVE RODAN

Israel and Poland have ended a deadlock in negotiations on an \$800 million contract to upgrade Polish helicopters, with both countries agreeing to establish a commission that would schedule a series of missile tests for the project, officials said last night.

Israeli defense officials said the commission signaled a reversal of the new Polish government to

freeze an October 13 memorandum of understanding that committed Polish and Israeli companies to complete negotiations that would equip the Huzar helicopter with Israeli anti-tank missiles and avionics.

The avionics would be provided by prime contractor Elbit Systems Ltd., the missiles by Rafael Israel Armament Weapons Authority, and the laser-target designator by El-Op Electro-Optics Industries.

Officials said the agreement to establish a commission came during a meeting on Friday between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his Polish counterpart Jerzy Buzek. They said it marked the first agreement by the new Polish government to reconsider its refusal to recognize the contract award to Israel by the previous Warsaw government.

The officials said the commission will discuss the amount of technology Israel will transfer to Poland in the Huzar upgrade contract. The panel is to be completed by May 15 and it will be headed on the Israeli side by Maj. Gen. (res.)

Yossi Ben-Hanan, head of the Defense Ministry's arms export agency, Sibet.

For their part, Polish officials assert that the commission will focus on conducting a series of tests by Rafael's NT-D anti-tank missile. Polish Defense Minister Jansz Onyszkiewicz said both Israeli and Polish officials had agreed in Friday's talks that more tests of the missile were needed.

Onyszkiewicz said that the NT-D tests conducted in January 1997 were inconclusive about whether they fulfilled Poland's needs. He said the new tests should be conducted in Poland.

Israeli officials said they would not object to moving the test site to Poland. But they said they did not want the tests to significantly delay the start of the Huzar upgrade.

"This has never been a problem," a defense source involved in the negotiations said. "What we don't want is that the tests be used to justify another long delay."

The *Zygie Warszawa* daily yesterday, in a report from Tel Aviv, quoted the heads of the Israeli consortium as saying, "Only a miracle could fulfill Israeli hopes for the modernization of the Polish Huzar helicopter."

50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD
Is Self-Defense Still a Basic Right?

A discussion by
Ruth Matar and her guests

We are being shot at; we are being stoned; we are being firebombed by the Arabs. The restraints on self-defense imposed on Jews by the Authorities has caused an alarming increase in Jewish deaths and severe injuries! Can we allow this deplorable situation to continue?

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ARUTZ 7 - English program, 97.3 FM radio (97.1 FM in Jerusalem) or live on Internet, www.a7.org

A Joyous 50th Independence Day to All Our People...
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Tuesday 12 May at 6pm and 8.30pm

Photography of the Middle East, Holy Land and Israel: 1850-1998
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4,5,6 May 11am-9:30pm
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9 May 12 noon-6pm
10 May 12 noon-6pm
11 May 10am-4pm
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Saturday, May 2
at 9 p.m.
Ganei Yehoshua (Hayarkon Park)

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Rita
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NEWS

in brief

Two remanded in alleged gang rape

A border policeman was arrested yesterday on suspicion he was involved in a gang rape of a tourist at the Underground nightclub in Jerusalem several weeks ago. He was remanded yesterday for five days by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki ordered the club closed for 30 days. On Monday, Danny Charnet, 23, who had worked for several years at the club, was remanded on suspicion he had also participated. Both Charnet and the border policeman admit to having sex with the woman, but claim it was with her consent. *Itim*

Kahalani apologizes for racist comments on Thais

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday apologized to Thai diplomats for the racist statements made, among others, by Labor Minister Eli Yishai, about Thais and foreign workers last week, following the arrest of Thai worker Korbua Sumbat on suspicion of murdering Yairit Regav of Kibbutz Na'an. In the ambassador's absence, Kahalani invited the Thai charge d'affaires and consul to his office and expressed the country's appreciation of the Thai workers' contribution, noting they are very dedicated. *Michal Yudelman*

State must meet May 2 Pollard deadline

An attempt by the state to defer the next hearing on a petition from convicted spy Jonathan Pollard to the High Court of Justice was thwarted yesterday by Pollard's Jerusalem lawyer, Larry Dub. The State Attorney's Office had asked for 15 more days to prepare its response to a court order giving it until May 2 to show why it should not recognize Pollard as an agent of the state. According to one source, while most ministers would like to work out a formula to satisfy Pollard's demand for recognition as an agent, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai still objects to formal recognition. *Batsheva Tsur*

Senior officer acquitted of financial irregularities

Brig.-Gen. David Tzur, the outgoing head of the IDF's Liaison Unit with Foreign Forces, was found innocent of four counts of financial malfeasance. He had a disciplinary trial before Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy, assistant to the deputy chief of general staff. According to military sources, the army investigated Tzur when a senior officer in the unit was discharged after he was found guilty of stealing money. Sources in the unit said the accusations were a revenge attack by the discharged officer. Despite the charges, IDF prosecutors had ruled that he could be promoted. Tzur today becomes OC Intelligence Corps. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

With deep sorrow, we announce the unexpected death of

MEDINA BAT-AMI

The funeral will take place in Jerusalem today, Wednesday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m., leaving from Beit Hespel Givat Shaul.

Mother, Eva
Father, Henry
Daughter, Talia

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing in Monsey, New York, of our beloved

RACHEL GOLDWASSER

daughter of Alexander Ephraim (Gander) Ehrman
The coffin will arrive on El Al 016, due to arrive today, Wednesday, April 29, at 2:40 p.m.
The funeral will take place at Her Hamenuhot, Tamir section, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem, at 4:30 p.m.
Further details from Tel. 03-619 0029, 03-618 5030.

Mourning by
Husband: Chaim Goldwasser
and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, USA
Brother: Gershon Ehrman, Bnei Brak
Sister: Hilda Frommer, Bnei Brak
Brother: Maurice K. Ehrman, Monsey, NY
Brother: Jacob H. Ehrman, Monsey, NY
Shiva at the home of her brother, 5 Rehov Tzfat, Bnei Brak.



The Knesset

The Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, Knesset Members, Secretary and Staff of the Knesset offer their deepest condolences to Ruth Davis and her family on the passing of her husband

MORDECHAI ז"ל

We will observe the yahrzeit of

Professor MOSHE DAVIS ז"ל

by assembling for a memorial service and cultural program at Meshek Nir Galim (on the road to Ashdod), on Monday, May 4, 1998 (8 Iyar 5758) at 5:30 p.m.
Please confirm your participation by calling 02-561-9032, 588-2467/8; 563-4054.
Transportation from Jerusalem and back is available and can be reserved by calling the above numbers.

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Vilna'i, Mofaz meet PM today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday the decision on the next chief of general staff will be announced shortly after Independence Day and that he will meet today with the two front runners.

Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i and

Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz met separately yesterday with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who said he would make his decision over the weekend.

Sources said that the meetings between the generals and the minister were basically one-sided conversations. Each candidate presented his case and the defense

minister did not make any promises as to who would replace Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who steps down on July 9.

The two are to meet with the premier today. Netanyahu said the decision on the next head of the IDF would not be made before he spoke with Vilna'i, a childhood friend, and Mofaz, Mordechai's

preferred choice.

Mordechai met over a long lunch yesterday in Tel Aviv with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. A Defense Ministry statement said the meeting with the former chief of general staff dealt with security matters.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani threw his backing behind Vilna'i, saying he has a

better record. Kahalani was careful to note that the decision is up to the minister of defense, but said it was important for all ministers to express their opinions.

Mordechai has said that no lobby or media campaign will influence his decision, which he maintains will be completely on the basis of merit.

Likud candidate wins Kiryat Shmona mayoral race

By DAVID RUDGE

Likud's Haim Barbevali, as expected, was elected mayor of Kiryat Shmona in the municipal elections that were held in the northern town on Monday.

Barbevali won with 4,587 votes, over 3,000 more than second place independent Leah Ehrlich, with Geshet's candidate, former Labor Party member Herzl Ben-Asher, in third place with under 1,000 votes.

The Likud retained its place as the biggest party on the town council, winning four of the 15 seats, including that of mayor,

with three going to the National Religious Party and two to Shas, Yisrael Ba'aliya and Ehrlich's independent group. Geshet, headed by Ben-Asher, and Labor each won one seat on the new town council.

The Third Way, Tsomet and three independent parties, including that of former municipality spokesman Yoram Even-Tsur, failed to cross the threshold.

The overall turnout was relatively low (60 percent), with 8,905 out of the 14,750 eligible voters actually casting their ballots for mayor and the town council seats.

Tammy Mishan, who served as secretary to former mayor Prosper Azran - whose resignation brought about the early municipal elections - said the campaign had been quiet and dignified for the most part.

"The low voter turnout was evident, however, although in many cases people were registered who do not live here anymore," said Mishan, who is continuing as head of the mayor's office under the new incumbent.

Barbevali said one of his first tasks would be to try and encourage investment in the town, in terms of tourism and new industry,

and improve the higher education infrastructure. He said the threat of Katyusha rocket attacks was less of a prob-

lem than the fact that many young people left the town to study at universities and later found jobs elsewhere.



Miracle baby

Prof. Ahy-Lewin, of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem (left) and Orit Ohayon as they greet their new son, the first Israeli baby to be delivered by a woman with Klinefelter's syndrome, an abnormal condition affecting one out of 500 males. The healthy, 3.25-kilo baby, born yesterday, was produced by a complex process that involved the removal of sperm from a testicle, in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and pre-implantation diagnosis of the embryo to ensure it was not affected by the disease. So far, only two such babies have been born in the US and two others in Belgium. Lewin, of the obstetric/gynecology department's IVF unit, presided over the treatment, along with colleagues Dr. Binyamin Raubinoof and Dr. Anat Safran, in cooperation with the hospital's genetics department. The father had until now been completely infertile due to the syndrome, in which the body cells contain one or more extra X chromosomes. (Text: Judy Siegel; photo: Avi Hayoun)

Gag order lifted in Bassiouny suit

By ELLI WOHLGELER

A Tel Aviv judge has lifted the gag order barring publication of the details in the case of the Tel Aviv belly dancer who is suing Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny for an alleged attempted rape. Magistrate Court Judge Dan Arbel ruled yesterday that the media could publish the details of the NIS 1 million civil lawsuit brought by Shulamit Shalom, noting that in September, when criminal allegations were pending, the police themselves had asked for a gag order to be lifted.

The criminal case was subsequently dropped by the state prosecutor, after which Shalom filed a civil suit. The Foreign Ministry is attempting to have the case dismissed, claiming that Bassiouny has diplomatic immunity. A hearing on this matter will be held in two weeks.

Attorneys for the Foreign Ministry had requested the gag order, contending that Israeli Embassy personnel in Cairo could be harmed if the case would continue to be reported abroad.

They also argued that Israel's relations with Egypt were on the verge of collapsing over this case, and Bassiouny was threatening to return to Cairo.

Shalom's lawyer, Nisana Darshan-Leitner, said yesterday that the judge's decision "is a landmark decision and a tremendous victory for freedom of speech and the right to a free press."

"This is the first time that a gag order brought by the government has been successfully defeated. The court recognized that there is no threat to national security or public safety merely because Bassiouny is an Egyptian diplomat who has been accused in court of a sexual assault."

Darshan-Leitner argued that the Foreign Ministry had no factual basis for their allegations of the danger to Israel-Egyptian relations, and that they were simply abusing judicial discretion to close trials in politically sensitive cases.

The case had originally been investigated by police as a criminal action shortly after the incident allegedly took place on August 13, at the Ramat Gan apartment of Bassiouny's friend, Dr. Yehoshafat Shulman. Shulman has also been named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

Police dropped the criminal case in October for lack of evidence. Bassiouny denied all charges and said the whole episode was part of a conspiracy against him.

The civil suit was filed in December.

Employers prepare for introduction of Sexual Harassment Law

By ESTHER HECHT

The Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law, which was still generating smirks and wisecracks when it was passed last month, has become an international hit.

"In the 50 years of the state, I don't know if there have been as many requests for copies of a law as for this one," MK Yael Dayan told the Knesset Status of Women Committee yesterday. The committee met in special session to discuss how the law would be implemented when it goes into effect on September 19.

According to Dayan the law is attracting interest abroad, partly because its passage coincided with the furor over US President Bill Clinton's alleged sexual relations with former White House aide Monica Lewinsky.

The real reason for the interest, however, is that it is the most wide-ranging sexual harassment law in the world.

Since the law holds employers responsible for preventing sexual harassment or adverse treatment arising from such harassment, representatives of the country's largest "employers" - the IDF, the police and the civil service - as well as the judiciary, universities, colleges, the Education Ministry and women's organizations, were summoned to report to the committee how they are preparing to implement it.

The IDF has produced a manual on the subject and plans to have a film ready by the end of the year, said OC Women's Corps Brig.-Gen. Orit Adato. An officer found guilty of sexual harassment risks punishment as severe as dismissal, she added.

The police, which is both an employer and an enforcer of the law, is about to distribute explanatory kits to its forces. In addition, more professionalism will be demanded of the lower ranks, that is, those who will deal with the

complaints, said Masha Lubelsky, senior adviser to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

The country's institutions of higher learning are drawing up their own regulations concerning sexual harassment. So, too, but separately, are the teachers' colleges.

The Education Ministry's Hava Barnea said the real importance of the law in the long run is to change behavioral norms.

"The law helps us, because it defines sexual harassment as repeated action," Barnea said. "We want to teach youngsters to communicate better. If you don't like that behavior, say so."

Meanwhile, the Justice Ministry, with the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and Dayan's committee, is working on regulations that will serve as a model for employers. The regulations are to be ready by August 19. When the law goes into effect in September, all employers will be required to have effective means for handling complaints.

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From the USAF to the IAF

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Lt.-Col. Danny Grossman, retiring this summer from the IAF, is the only American 'oleh' to win the IAF Commander's Air Medal

Lt.-Col. Danny Grossman's story reads like a Hollywood action film. He is one of a few American airmen who flew in the US Air Force, made aliyah and then flew fighter jets in the IAF. And he is the only one to be decorated with the IAF Commander's Air Medal for his exploits.

Grossman, 46, the son and grandson of Conservative rabbis, and himself a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University, is retiring this summer from the IAF and his story can now be told.

Destinies define us. And then there are pilots. And then there are pilots in the Israeli Air Force who have a chance to make history every time they fly.

Lt.-Col. Danny Grossman's chance came following a top secret reconnaissance mission which failed. He was the spare navigator in an F-4 Phantom jet squadron in the early 1980s. He helped plan the daring and complicated mission deep into an enemy country which, even today, can still not be named. After reaching its target, the jets couldn't take photographs due to the cloudy weather and returned home. Five days later, Grossman and three other airmen in two F-4s laden with reconnaissance cameras set off on the same mission, knowing full well they were likely to run into MiGs this time. They were traveling without escort because having F-15s along would only invite a dogfight and an international incident.

"There aren't that many situations of do or die. Here we understood that by sending us back so quickly meant it was important and really had to be done."

"The only thing we had," said Grossman kissing his index finger. "Was one air-to-air missile each." Grossman guided the jets to their target where they gained altitude and photographed it. The only thing left was head for home. But on their way back they spotted a MiG 21.

The pair of F-4s split and then regrouped. Only the MiG was ahead and to their right, between them and home.

"All you have to do is sweep over and you got'em," Grossman said. "We were going like this for about 40 seconds, which seemed like an eternity. Suddenly, like in the cartoons when the light bulb goes on over the cat, the MiG realizes we're there and he breaks into us. We came so close I could see the color of his visor. Everything was crystal clear."

He watched the MiG zoom by. If it tried to turn around and come between the other Israeli F-4, then its pilot, today Maj.-Gen. Gideon

Sheffer, head of IDF Manpower, would "make his day." But the MiG was too careful and turned only after passing the second aircraft, leaving him far behind both jets.

"The easiest thing to do would have been to shoot him. Go home and then do a roll over the base and paint a little sign on your airplane. That is the dream of every pilot."

But they didn't shoot him down. This wasn't what they had come for. They had the photos and now they had to get away from the enemy jets as quickly as possible. So they dove for ground. "Once the Phantom gets going on the deck he's a Cadillac," said Grossman using his USAF lingo.

The two jets were headed for home so fast and so low they were "kicking up dust and the only way to get under us was with a snorkel. It was the first time in my life I ever saw the machometer go super-sonic at low altitude," Grossman said.

The slower MiG eventually ran out of fuel and crashed in the desert. The pilot ejected. But then the enemy's air force scrambled and jets were closing in on them as they headed back to Israel. But as they approached, IAF F-15 interceptors sent out to protect them chased the enemy aircraft away.

The following month, Grossman was promoted to major, and he and the three other airmen were awarded the Air Medal. The citation was given to emphasize the need to stick to the goals of the mission. The incident is taught to young pilots today as an example not to show that they could have shot down a MiG, but refrained from doing so, but to demonstrate how much the decision making process rests on the pilots and navigators.

GROSSMAN GREW UP the son of a traveling Conservative rabbi in the US, who also served as a reserve military chaplain in the US Air Force. After graduating from the Yeshiva University High School, Grossman enrolled at a joint program of the JTS and Columbia in the heyday of the anti-Vietnam war protests and campus takeovers. He met his future wife Lisa Boye and fell in love with Israel in his junior year in Jerusalem in 1971-72. But after graduation he shocked his classmates when he decided to join the

US Air Force.

"My long-term plan was to fly a little bit, get some hours under my belt. Get some experience and make a few bucks," said Grossman.

Grossman never got a chance to fly in Vietnam because the war ended before he could earn his wings. He went on to become a navigator in a F-4 fighter squadron, spending six years in the USAF.

"Just like all Jews, I was more gung ho than anybody. I knew that I wanted to come to Israel. I got myself a profession. I thought that it was the same thing as, you know, becoming a doctor," he said. "I stood out as a Jew so I figured that if you are going to stand out you might as well be good."

Grossman said, "I made it my business that I would always be the best."

He was. He became the "Top Gun" of the squadron, beating out Vietnam vets.

Pilots really have only one topic of conversation and that is flying. Despite his salt and pepper hair, he has a boyish charm about him.

"The difference between men and boys is the price of the toys. Instead of going 'Wheel' we go

"Roger," Grossman said. Grossman began his IAF career as an F-4 navigator, known today as a weapons system officer, in November 1979. At age 27 he had to prove himself all over again.

"Within a year I was crossing borders and that is the major difference between Israel and America. Here it is a bad news good news situation. The bad news is we have a lot of very defined enemies, and that is the good news too. We can define our enemies and we can think in very clear surface terms. In America everything is generic," he said.

Grossman believes he was able to break in with his fellow Israeli pilots because he was good in air-to-air combat which made him a sought after partner. Two years after joining the IAF he was preparing for the fateful mission.

His wife was nine months pregnant with their third child. The intercom blared out in the operations room before the mission announcing "Danny. Telephone - It's your wife."

"I feel all the eyes of the primary crews and the spare crews burning a hole in me. I swear the guy who was the first spare was drooling. He knows. Your wife is in the hospital. It's over. I'm in. You're out." But the call was a false alarm.

Hours later he was earning his medal.

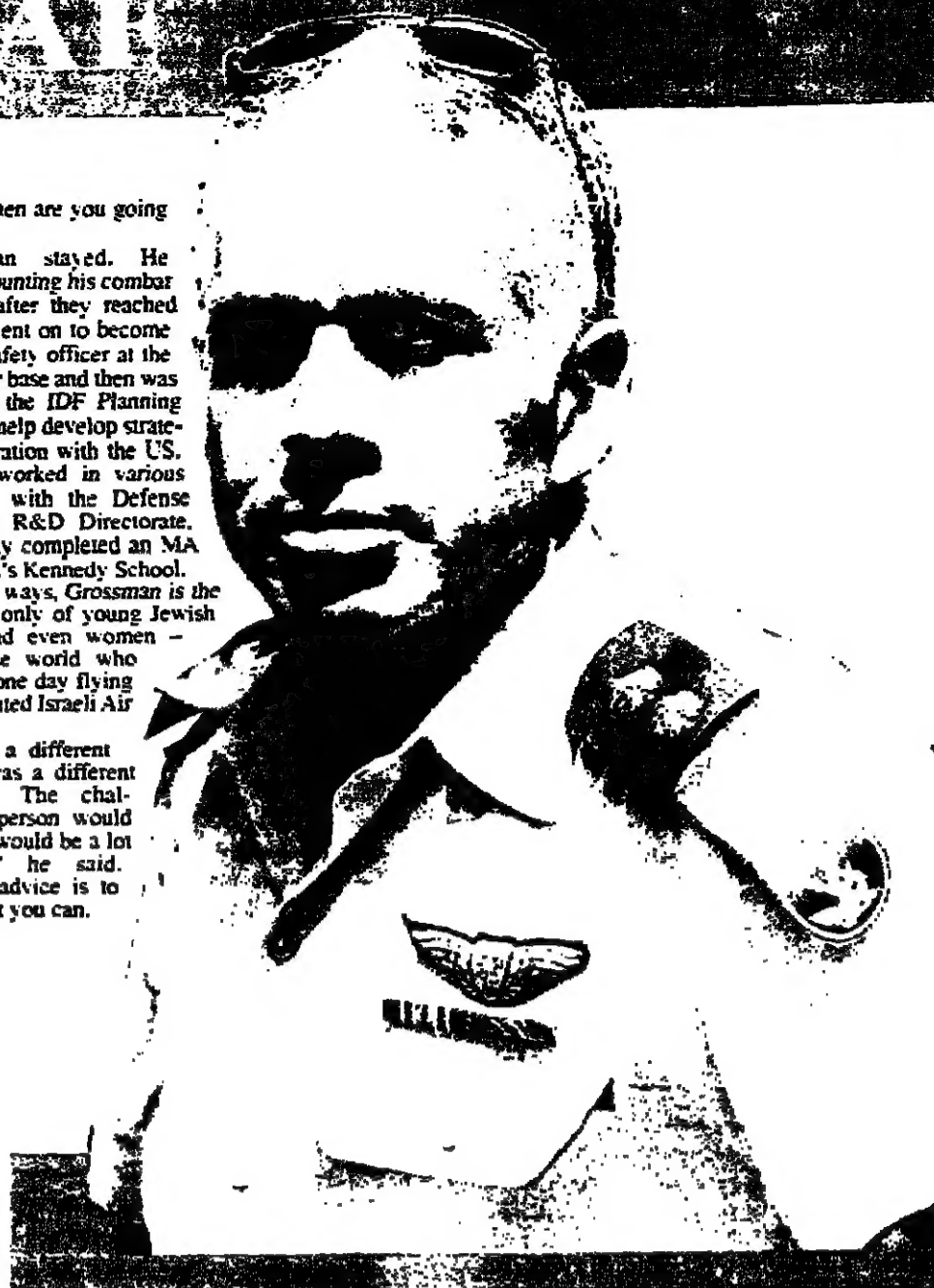
"Even after I got my citation," Grossman said, "there were those who said 'OK you've come here. You've done your thing, got you

medal. When are you going home?"

Grossman stayed. He stopped counting his combat missions after they reached 150. He went on to become the first safety officer at the Tel Nof air base and then was loaned to the IDF Planning branch to help develop strategic cooperation with the US. He then worked in various staff jobs with the Defense Ministry's R&D Directorate. He recently completed an MA at Harvard's Kennedy School.

In many ways, Grossman is the ideal, not only of young Jewish men - and even women - around the world who dream of one day flying in the vaunted Israeli Air Force.

"It was a different time. It was a different mentality. The challenges a person would face now would be a lot different," he said. "But my advice is to do the best you can."



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Israel at 50

Once again, we ride the roller coaster: today remembering the 20,332 who fell in Israel's wars and pre-state battles, tonight celebrating the nation for which they gave their lives. This year, Israel's jubilee, is a time for taking stock, thinking back across the span of time, and trying to fathom how far we have come and where we are headed.

Speaking of the human condition, the American longshoreman-philosopher Eric Hoffer wrote: "Our achievements speak for themselves. What we have to keep track of are our failures, discouragements, and doubts." He must not have been thinking of Israel at 50. Somehow, even during our birthday celebration, speaking of achievements is not quite in fashion, and contemplation over our current condition keeps returning to the matter of unfinished business.

According to a poll commissioned by Ha'aretz, 82 percent of Israelis expect that Israel will exist to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The confidence of the overwhelming majority is not as striking as the question itself: what other nation celebrating its jubilee would even ask such a question?

For a nation that is 50 years old, Israel is singularly preoccupied with what are, for most nations, birthing pains. Most nations take the definition of their borders for granted; the prospect of completing the definition of ours has only recently come into sight. We are only now able to begin grappling concretely with the fact that, as Yitzhak Rabin declared to the Palestinians after the famous handshake on the White House lawn, "We are destined to live together on the same soil in the same land."

Though it was not always expressed with the same intensity, our desire to coexist in the same land has been a fervent one from the beginning of the Zionist enterprise. At one time it was even shared by Arab leaders such as Emir Faisal, who in 1919 wrote to US Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter proclaiming "the deepest sympathy for the Zionist movement."

Faisal viewed Zionism as a companion to the Arab nationalist movement fighting against the colonial powers of the day. "We will wish the

Jews a hearty welcome home," he continued, "there is room in Syria for us both."

Even though hopes for coexistence had been dashed by much bloodshed in the interim, Israel's Declaration of Independence declared, "We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness." The Arab response was succinctly expressed by the *New York Times* headline that day: "Zionists Proclaim State of Israel ... Tel Aviv Bombed, Egypt Orders Invasion."

Then it was not known whether Israel would survive another week, let alone 50 years. We have not only survived, but created a thriving democracy that has increased its population tenfold, largely by attracting and absorbing massive numbers of immigrants. Two of the nations at war with us, Egypt and Jordan, have signed peace treaties with us, and the closing of the circle of peace with our immediate neighbors can be seen dimly — even through the dust kicked up by the current haggling over the peace process.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who rarely seems to mind being out of fashion, exuded holiday spirit in his jubilee interview with this newspaper, calling Israel "the greatest success story of the 20th century, and in many ways it is the greatest triumph of a people of all the nations of history." The resurrection of an ancient people in its own land, following the destruction of a third of its number in the Holocaust, is unique in history and represents ample cause for celebration, even had Israel accomplished nothing else.

Healing the religious-secular split, finding a way to be a Jewish state that includes its Arab minority, and backing with reality the lip service paid to revolutionizing the economy are each daunting tasks which have been shunted aside by the existential struggle for too long. But the existence of challenges to be met should hardly be allowed to dampen the celebration.

Rather, Israel's jubilee year should be dedicated to tackling all these challenges simultaneously, with the expectation that — if as much progress is made in the next 50 years as in the first — there will be even more to celebrate at Israel's centenary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APOLOGY OWED

Sir, — Bernard Wasserstein manages to outdo even his usual litany of ludicrous historical claims in his most recent piece "No apology required" (April 27), wherein he attacks propagandizing mythmakers who demean the British mandatory record.

He slashes at those who claim the Balfour Declaration contains the word "homeland." Yet, he ignores that it does indeed support a "Jewish national home." More importantly, however, it referred but to the "civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities."

The British government surely did not at that time support an Arab Palestine.

He further proceeds to ridicule those who assert that Transjordan was "hopped off the mandate." In reality, Wasserstein writes, it was "added on." Nevertheless, he ignores disingenuously that the British decreed a postponement,

actually, a prohibition, of all Jewish settlement in Transjordan, later confirmed in Article 25 of the Mandate. Worse, though, is his treatment of the subject of British restrictions on Jewish immigration, if only because he ignores his own 1979 study, *Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945*.

The book's flyleaf accurately notes that "what emerges is a lamentable story of bureaucratic complacency, inhumanity and blindness to the Jewish catastrophe in Europe." The book is damning of British wartime policies in all areas as regards Jews and their homeland.

One example, I think, will suffice to illustrate Wasserstein's current apologies. The 1939 White Paper "had only a limited effect" he pontificates. The fact is that in March 1944, at the end of the five-year limitation on Jewish immigration, fully 27,500 certificates out of 75,000 had not been used.

Why were these Jews not provided with a safe haven?

Were these Jews alive or ashes? When the Holocaust overtook the possible immigration candidates, was the effect indeed limited or eternal death?

This result, in addition to the *Struma* and other acts of interference in rescue attempts of Jews, is the reality of a sorry record of anti-Semitism which, for all the positive that surely was achieved, cannot be excused or explained away.

Wasserstein can continue to perpetuate his own myth: that no apology is required by Britain for its thirty-year mandatory rule.

In doing so, he owes us, his readers, an apology for obfuscation, misinformation and partisan political exploitation of his scholarship abilities.

YISRAEL MEDAD
Shiloh.

TOO MUCH ENTERTAINMENT

roots in the ancestral heritage of the Jewish People.

And they blew it! In the 48 hours of the official celebrations could they not have scheduled at least a few programs of Jewish content to counterbalance the hours and hours of American-style entertainment — often geared to the lowest denominator of Israeli taste.

However, the most egregious error of judgment was actually cancelling one of the few existing shows with spiritual content.

REPRESENTATIVE TV

Day transcends or should transcend all political considerations.

Is it not time the feelings and wishes of those who pay the license fee are taken into consideration? Maybe the government should cancel the license and deduct the money from the monies

Rabbi Mordechai Alon's half-hour program of Torah commentary on Friday afternoons. What justification can there be for the cancellation of this high-quality program — which would have injected a much-needed spiritual element into the festivities — in favor of still more "entertainment," with which we were already saturated?

PIRCHIAH NACHMANI
Beit Shemesh.

it transfers to the Palestinian Authority: until we get a truly representative Israeli Radio and TV, and not the PA in Hebrew?

EMANUEL FISCHER
Jerusalem.

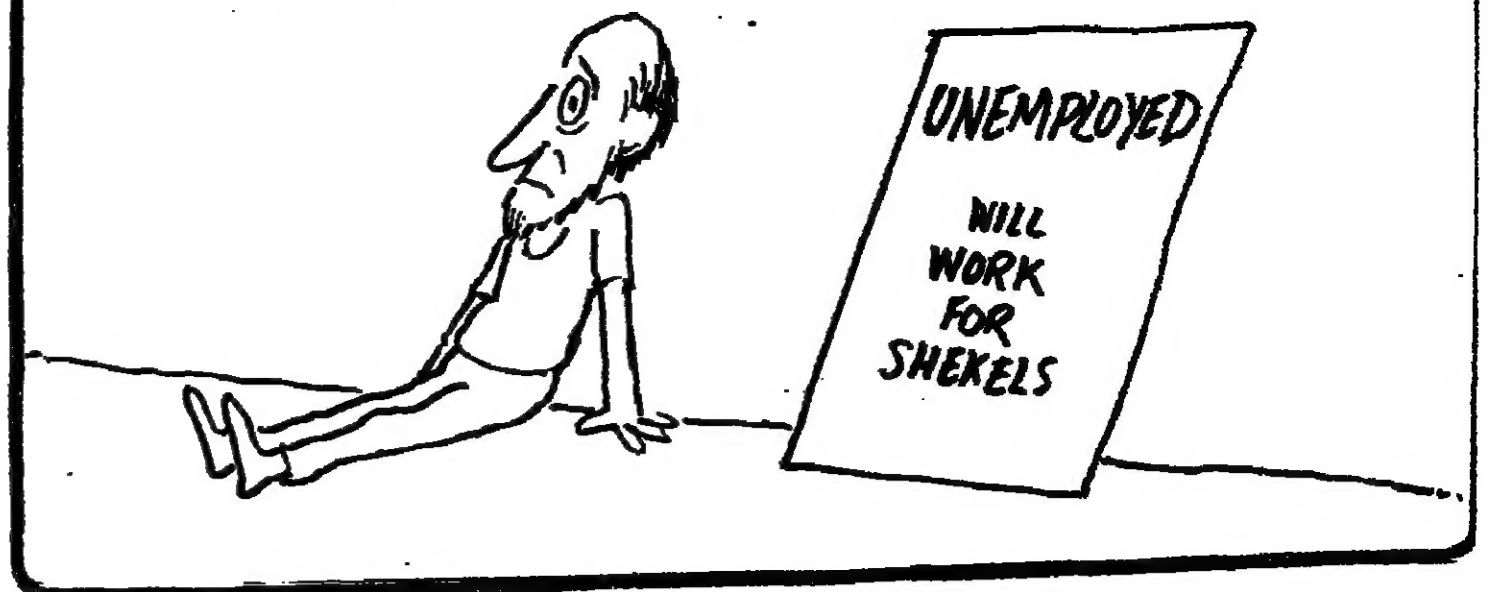
FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On April 29, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that ignoring the official British Army denials, King Abdullah admitted that his Arab Legion had already occupied Jericho and that the force consisted of "scout troops — who always precede the regular army."

At the same time, streams of Arab refugees were moving along Palestine roads towards the frontiers of Syria, Trans-Jordan and Lebanon. Jewish forces were closing in on Yafa where Irgun Zvai Leumi cleared the Manshih quarter in the north while the Hagana attacked Arab

positions in the south. 25 years ago: On April 29, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that a Black September killer shot dead Vittorio Olivares, an Italian employee of El Al airlines in Rome — he may have assassinated the wrong man, Italian police reported. Alexander Zvielli

MEIR RONEN © 98



The next 50 years

MOSHE ARENS

Who but Theodor Herzl would have believed that 50 years after the first Zionist Congress in Basel, the Jewish state was going to be established? And who could have envisaged on May 15, 1948 that during the next 50 years, Israel would undergo four major wars and in due time become a strong, prosperous nation with a Jewish population of over 4.5 million?

It surely takes a measure of audacity to attempt to look into the next 50 years. And yet, in these crucial times, policy decisions that are bound to have long-range consequences should not be taken without a serious effort to peer into the future, even if only in an attempt to identify major trends and alternative possible futures.

Three areas in particular are deserving of attention — security, economics, and demographics.

As for security, two conflicting views regarding the future can be heard from Israeli politicians. The first, whose most prominent spokesman is former premier Shimon Peres, contends that if only Israel will make the concessions demanded by Yasser Arafat for the Palestinians, and by Hafez Assad for the Syrians, a new peaceful Middle East will begin to take shape and Israel will achieve true security for the long-range future.

If peace with Arafat and Assad is not concluded, according to Peres, Israel will face an increasingly hostile Middle East and, in due time, will be threatened by weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Iran and a number of Arab states.

The opposing view, whose outstanding spokesman is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, paints a less rosy picture of the Middle East in the years to come. He therefore concludes that only Israel's ability to defend itself can provide the security we seek.

Concessions that prejudice this

ability, even if they lead to peace treaties, will leave Israel dangerously exposed to any change of heart in the Arab world, possibly even inviting Arab aggression in the years to come.

So, it all depends on the prognosis for the Middle East. Those who believe that in the years to come it will begin to resemble Scandinavia, might opt for the Peres policy, while those who believe it will continue to be a dangerous, volatile, and violent

Israel's neighbors become substantial markets for these products.

But there is one cause for concern. The high-tech sector, requiring almost no infrastructure other than talent and education, is by its nature mobile, easily transferable to other countries.

If the Histadrut continues with its current policies — opposing privatization and deregulation, demanding wage increases incommensurate with the rate of increase

Demography is the most crucial parameter for determining Israel's future in the next half-century

region for some years will prefer to be cautious. And those who think it might go either way, will probably still want to be prudent.

It is relatively easy to be optimistic about Israel's economic future. Now that liberalization, privatization, and a responsible fiscal policy have finally been adopted as the economic policies of both major parties, Israel's comparative advantage in skill-intensive activities is becoming apparent.

There is every reason to believe that the high-tech sector will continue to flourish and since technology will, no doubt, be the major growth sector in the world's economy in future years, Israel should be able to take its place among the world's most prosperous nations.

This development should bear little correlation with the rate of progress in the Middle East peace process, as for some years to come the major markets for Israel's high-tech products will be the US, the Far East, western Europe followed by eastern Europe and Russia. It will take years before

in productivity, using massive strikes in order to advance these aims, thus creating a climate of uncertainty — we might find some of our high-tech industries moving away from Israel's shores.

A great deal will depend on our labor federation understanding the workings of a modern economy and realizing that their anachronistic tactics are damaging the interests of the workers it claims to represent.

DEMOGRAPHY is the most crucial parameter for determining Israel's future in the next half-century. Israel, as it is today, is first and foremost the result of the great demographic changes that the Zionist movement and successive Israeli governments succeeded in bringing about in the past 100 years.

Immediately after World War I, the Jewish community west of the Jordan constituted only 10% of the total population. Seventy years later, by the time the Oslo Accords were signed, Jews constituted a majority of almost two-thirds in that area.

An independence wish

DAVID NEWMAN

Once again, Israel has beaten everyone else to the starting post.

While the rest of the world is gearing up for the turn of the millennium, we have created our own version nearly two years earlier — the fiftieth anniversary of the State of Israel.

Despite the somewhat downbeat mood surrounding what should have been a major party, our jubilee celebration has taken on a significance the like of which has probably not been felt during the past 50 Independence Days.

But like the rest of the world who will wake up to much of the same on January 1, 2000, so too will the citizens of Israel find that not much has changed on Friday morning. And once the long weekend has come and gone, we will soon forget the fireworks and the television extravaganzas and move back into our regular daily routines.

The Messiah will still not have arrived, the peace process will still be in recession, and the tensions between religious and secular will be as great as they were last week.

There is, of course, a great deal to celebrate. Given the condition of the Jewish people just 50 years ago, and given the perpetual situation of conflict the State of Israel has found itself in ever since its inception, it is nothing short of remarkable (some would say a miracle) that this country has achieved what it has achieved.

It is even more remarkable when we consider the way in which we go about our affairs of state, from crisis to crisis and with a system of management which would not rate very highly in those other Western societies

which we are so keen to ape.

But together with our celebrations, it would not do us any harm if, over this long weekend, we took some time out to sit back and reflect. Not only on the achievements, but also on everything we have not yet achieved and still desire to do so.

It is, as David Hartman wrote on this page some weeks ago, a sort of Yom Kippur, a time for national soul-seeking, to think beyond the glare of the fireworks, about the

A post-conflict Israel would be one in which we would have to deal with the many internal problems facing this heterogeneous society, rather than continually putting them off with the excuse that we have to direct all our energy and resources to defending the country against the external threat.

Meanwhile the internal problems threaten to tear us up from inside as we continue to wallpaper them over with a sort of artificial unity created by the security threat.

At 50, we should turn our backs on Masada and our faces towards peace

ways in which we can make the next 50 years even more successful.

Ask Israeli citizens to list one single wish for the next 50 years, and the answers will be diverse. But there would be a great deal of consensus around the general desire to attain peace and stability. There would be heated debate as to just what exactly "peace" entails and what each one of us would be prepared to actually give up in order to achieve that objective.

But the fact that all of us, Right and Left, desire to live in a country which has left its conflicts behind, must be unquestionable.

The dividend of peace is not just about living with our Arab and Palestinian neighbors without fearing for our lives. It is also, perhaps even more importantly, about finding ways we can live at peace with ourselves.

BUT to really deal with the issue of peace, we must change the whole nature of the discourse which has been central to Israeli society for the past 50 years. The Holocaust, Masada and Tel Hai cannot continue to be the single unifying raison d'être of the state for another 50 years. We must move from defining the state in negative terms, of threats and security, to the positive elements — social, moral and welfare — with which we imbue the state with meaning.

As long as we do not resolve the military conflict with our neighbors, we will never move beyond the first stage of state formation. Not that long ago, in the early days of the Oslo Accord, many of us believed — perhaps naively — that by the jubilee we would witness the signing of a peace treaty with the Palestinians and even the

Since then, there has been a steady deterioration due to an influx of Palestinians into the areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority, the higher Arab birth rate, a decrease in the Jewish birth rate, and the fall-off in the immigration from the countries that constituted the Soviet Union.

Within the borders of Israel the non-Jewish population, not counting foreign workers and Palestinian day-laborers, has passed the 20% mark. Israel's advanced economy and very high standard of living, especially compared to the neighboring countries, is likely to continue to serve as a magnet attracting Palestinians. Arab workers from neighboring countries, and workers from far afield.

Inevitably, many will remain in Israel permanently. The continued influx of Palestinians into the areas under Palestinian control is also likely to spill over into Israel. If these trends continue unabated the Jewish character of the State of Israel is going to be severely compromised.

A key role in furthering these trends, in abating them, or possibly in reversing them will be played by the Orthodox Jewish establishment in Israel. A continuation of its hard-line positions on conversion will place obstacles in the path of the integration of many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union into Israeli society, discourage further immigration from Russia and the Ukraine, and lead to an estrangement of most of the Western world's Jewish communities from Israel.

Unless our rabbis recognize the dangerous consequences of the continuation of their present stand, and unless future governments adopt a deliberate and determined policy to counter present demographic trends, we will find the accomplishments of the past 50 years slipping away.

Syrians. It would not have worried us greatly whether it would be Rabin or Netanyahu who would put their pen to this historic agreement, an agreement which would finally put the seal on Israel's security and existence.

We should not be sentenced to another 50 years of perpetual conflict when we, citizens of the strongest state in the region, have it in our power to make those gestures which are so necessary in reaching a final peace agreement.

We need to push beyond the siege mentality of the first 50 years of statehood into our own next millennium. Rather than wait for another catastrophe, such as the Yom Kippur War or the intifada, to force us into making peace, we should take the bull by the horns and actively initiate the next stage of the peace process before that catastrophe takes place.

A jubilee year is, in traditional sources, a year of freedom. A year in which slaves achieved their physical freedom and the masters their spiritual freedom.

While we celebrate over the coming weekend, we should reflect on the ways in which both those freedoms can come about: the freedom from external threat and the freedom from internal fragmentation. Only by making peace with "others" and freeing them from their subordinate status will we ever really begin to make peace with, and between, ourselves.

This is my wish for Israel's fiftieth birthday. I hope that there are many out there who join me in it.

POSTSCRIPT

OUR FRIEND in London, Jonathan Schoenfeld, sends us this eye-popper from a newspaper feature called Word Watching.

The daily feature challenges the reader to guess the meaning of a word, and then provides a detailed

definition along with the answer. We got a good laugh from the unexpected definition of the word "putz," which we know as a Yiddish word meaning "small penis."

Well, not according to Word

Watching:

"PUTZ: In Pennsylvania Dutch homes, a representation of the Nativity scene traditionally placed under a Christmas tree. In German, putz means decorations, ornaments. 'Only the chosen few

can afford to have a really impressive putz which fills half a room, miniature. The more elaborate its erection, but artistic hand-

Confidence in the future

GERALD M. STEINBERG

From the broad perspective of world and Jewish history, 50 years is not all that long, and despite the achievements Israel remains a nervous lot. In contrast to the swagger and self-confidence of the early sabras — the Palmahniks, air force pilots, and tank commanders — the masses are skittish and have a long and growing list of fears. The newspaper headlines warn of impending catastrophe from terrorists and from Iranian missiles.

There is good reason for this nervousness. Jewish history in

given little chance of survival against the Arab invasion in 1948.

One by one, our closest neighbors have reached the conclusion that direct confrontation with Israel is too costly, opening the way for grudging acceptance and limited coexistence. This is not the idealist's dream of peace and cooperation, but it is an improvement and the basis for stability.

While we were once worried about Egyptian and Syrian tanks and bombers, the focus of our fears has turned to the more dis-

Despite the very real threats, Israel has become and remains the most powerful state in the Middle East, and is able to defend itself and to deter attacks that threaten national survival

tant threats, particularly regarding Iran. The dominant image is one of radical Islamic clergy, violently opposed to the existence of Israel, ready to sacrifice millions of martyrs in the name of religious wars, and armed with nuclear missiles.

With Russian and Chinese assistance, Iran may indeed acquire the ability to strike Israel, as well as Europe, with ballistic missiles, and in a few more years, might have nuclear weapons. However, the Iranian leadership is also aware of Israel's ability to strike back, and they are not irrational or willing to commit certain national suicide. Even Saddam Hussein was careful enough not to provoke Israel by using chemical weapons.

Indeed, with the security provided by this military strength, Israel can also afford to take some prudent and carefully considered risks aimed at improving security in the longer-term.

Twenty years ago, Menachem Begin agreed, with some trepidation, to exchange land (Sinai) for peace with Egypt. The peace may be cold and disappointing, but it has held.

In 1993, Yitzhak Rabin took the risk that the Arafat could and would stop terrorism. This gamble was not very successful, and although the victims of the suicide bombings cannot be returned to life, at least as a nation, Israel has been able to contain the damage.

Now Netanyahu is considering taking risks to end the Lebanese quagmire. If handled very carefully, this process might succeed. Under very different rules of the game, it may even be possible to revive the Palestinian disengagement process.

Vulnerable nations are always responding to threats and are unable to control their fate, but strong states can act with self-assurance, taking risks where prudent, to build a safer environment.

In the past 50 years, Israel has gone from a weak country, almost on the verge of collapse, to a powerful state, despite our self-image as a small nation still surrounded by enemies.

Although there are still many risks and the neighborhood is still rough, as long as we preserve this strength, we can move forward to the next 50 years with confidence.

the Diaspora was one of frequent disasters, and the close proximity between Holocaust Memorial Day and Israel Independence Day is, in itself, cautionary.

In addition, the short history of Israel has added reasons to live in a constant state of alert, with adrenaline always flowing.

The very costly 1948 Arab invasion, the preparations for another full-scale attack in 1967 that left Israelis jittery even after the war ended in an unexpected victory, and the 1973 surprise attack from Syria and Egypt, when the head of military intelligence predicted that there would be no war, all combined to leave permanent marks on the Israeli psyche.

In 1991, Israelis spent six weeks of high anxiety waiting for sirens, missile attacks and chemical weapons in sealed rooms and wearing gas masks.

A few months ago, during the recent Iraqi crisis, Israel remembered the unfulfilled American promises to destroy Saddam and his arsenal, if only we would act with restraint and not launch our own counterattacks. The accelerating Iranian missile program has led to a new round of headlines, warnings and feelings of vulnerability.

At the same time, one of the central themes, repeated every year in this season, is that the environment changed radically for Jews with the attainment of sovereignty and the establishment of the State.

We are no longer a defenseless minority, and the lessons of persecution, pogroms and the Holocaust are not directly applicable to the Israeli situation.

Despite the very real threats, Israel has become and remains the most powerful state in the Middle East, and is able to defend itself and to deter attacks that threaten national survival. The March of the Living in Auschwitz and the memorials for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism are both powerful demonstrations that the Jewish people have and will survive.

After 50 years, we begin to relax a little, to place the continuing dangers and threats into perspective, and not allow every headline to be seen as another potential Holocaust.

Today's population of six million is almost 10 times larger than the small nation that was



Growing old gracefully

RUTHIE BLUM

When the festivities ushering in Israel's jubilee year begin tonight, there is bound to be an accompanying sigh of national relief. Given all of the brohaha surrounding and leading up to this monumental milestone, getting it over with will be welcome.

As is the case with most birthdays — particularly ones signaling the passage into another decade — the preceding period is anxiety-ridden, and the actual day is more of a let-down than a pick-me-up. As is also the case, however, the period following the deadline date is one of transition: Of acceptance. And even of optimism.

At forty-nine, Israel had a lot to be depressed about. Like a precocious child who finds himself catapulted into middle age — no longer considered precocious, and no longer a child — the nation seems to have taken to bed with a whopping identity crisis. Even the flags decorating the country's streets have a droopy look about them.

This is not surprising. Gifted and capable well beyond its years, Israel was pushed into the ranks of the "big boys" before being given the chance to ripen into maturity. And when it comes to pushy parents, none is quite so brazen as Mother Necessity. Hungry for the outward achievements of her progeny, even at the expense of the latter's inner well-being, she has proved to be a curse for the Jewish State as well as a blessing.

To be sure, the blessing is not to be scoffed at. Without such a parent, Israel would not have zoomed through the last half-century with the flair and accompanying fanfare that are its trademarks.

Without such a parent, it would not have reached the incredible achievements which are its claim to fame.

The curse is common among under-aged over-achievers. Desperate to "catch up" with their chronological elders, they invest little energy — and exercise even

Once we get through the big birthday bash, all we have to do is get on with the business of being 50

less patience — in catching up with themselves.

Herein lies the crux of our state's current state of internal malaise.

Being so precocious and gifted at the building of the state, Israel thought it could tackle the preserving of the state with equal speed and efficiency.

"We've tried war," say Oslo Accord enthusiasts, mimicking American draft dodgers during the Vietnam War, "Now let's give peace a chance."

Been there, done that, they keep insisting, understandably desperate to be past this difficult and often demoralizing phase of nationhood, which feels like it will go on forever.

IT is one thing to be ambitious, however, and quite another to be recklessly impatient. Being in a

hurry to build, produce and achieve continues to be as necessary for the state's continued survival as it was 50 years ago. But trying to pole-vault over crucial stages of national development is as pointless as imagining that skipping from elementary school to high school constitutes reaching puberty.

These crucial stages of development involve the shedding of self-consciousness and the donning of self-acceptance. As is true for individuals, replacing self-consciousness with self-acceptance is a precondition for growing old gracefully.

Only after meeting this precondition will Israel have the authority — at home and abroad — to embrace genuine peace offerings from its neighbors, and to go to war whenever necessary. It is this authority which Israel was too precocious a child to cultivate. And it is the lack of this authority which has taken its toll on the morale of the country — Left, Right and center — for far too long.

Tomorrow, after the confetti settles and the barbecues smolder, we owe it to ourselves to opt for growing old gracefully. We can start by making a decision, worthy of the "adult" we wish to become, to forge ahead by slowing down. Slowing down involves recognizing the current obstacles in our path, rather than trying to deny them or wish them away. It also involves making the time to replace our immature impatience with authority.

This should not be an insurmountable mission for us to embark upon. Once we get through the big birthday bash, all we have to do is get on with the business of being 50.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

The check list

Had our founding fathers been able to join us for this weekend of introspection they would have likely burst into tears of happiness, much like the Palmist's sowers who reaped in joy.

Just think of Theodor Herzl gazing at a jetliner discharging hundreds of new olim, a weekly sight at Ben-Gurion Airport. Driving him down the Ayalon Freeway, amid the rapidly growing forest of skyscraping office towers which are fast besieging it, the oohing-and-eyeing Viennese journalist would remind us that he died half-a-decade before Tel Aviv's cornerstone was even laid.

Or think of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the organizer of Jewish self defense in Czarist Russia who spent a lifetime dreaming of a Jewish military; how delicious would he be if whisked by an IDF chopper across a routine maneuver where hordes of sweating troops, antennae-laden vehicles, and sky-slicing aircraft cloud some Negev mountain ridge, amid what for us are strikingly familiar billowing smoke, thundering fire, and staccato wireless messages.

Not to mention Chaim Weizmann, the scientist-turned-statesman who prided himself on having shed "at least one drop of my own blood into each little Tel Aviv workshop." How dumbfounded would he be touring places like Tadiran, ECI Telecom, Elbit, or the 3,000 start-ups which highlight our universally admired Silicon Wadi.

And Rabbi I.J. Reines, who joined hands with the secular Herzl in the face of fierce haredi opposition; how vindicated would he feel seeing this yeshiva-carpeted Jewish state's numerous kippa-wearing free professionals, army officers and high-ranking government officials.

Even Ahad Ha'Am, the gaunt, stern-faced, perennial skeptic who preferred to build here a spiritually oriented and politically benign Jewish community, would be heartened to roam the corridors of such academic powerhouses as the Hebrew University, the Technion, or the Weizmann Institute, along with 15 other fully-accredited institutions of higher learning and dozens of smaller colleges which together add up to a world renowned education empire.

"Back when I was around," that oft-cynical scholar would probably concede, "thoughts of launching satellites, becoming a computer-knowledge superpower, being a farming beacon unto the nations, creating Jewish fighter jets, and generally transfiguring an impoverished backwater into an affluent economy were remote, not to say downright outlandish."

INDEED, being finally free, strong, and wealthy all at once, the Jewish state has realized its founding fathers' dreams. And yet there is plenty which even those visionaries could not foresee.

Herzl would be shocked to learn that our *Alteynland* ended up embroiled in a full-fledged conflict — replete with total wars, super-power meddling, and nuclear ornamentation — which has already cost more than 18,000 Jewish lives and a far higher number of Arab ones.

Jabotinsky, had he been present at a Yom Kippur War field hospi-

tal, would probably be appalled to learn of the enemy's enduring motivation and technological progress.

A.D. Gordon would be out of his wits had he — the prophet of Jewish redemption through physical labor — roamed the streets of south Tel Aviv's foreign-worker dominated slums.

Ahad Ha'Am would be flabbergasted to witness our youth's worship of material consumerism, or secular Zion's creeping abandonment of Hebrew culture to clerical devices, not to mention Middle Israel's embrace of foreign entertainment, travel, and lingo.

And Rabbi Reines, had he been thrust into the sweat, rage, and cacophony of yet another rioting haredi mob's clash with mounted police one Shabbat afternoon on this or that soon-to-be choked urban artery, would probably tear his beard.

TOWARD DUSK, at the end of their peek into the Jewish state, sitting on the Knesset lawn a few yards away from the eternal fire for the fallen soldiers, they would join down a checklist.

• Hebrew?
Herzl: I never cared about that.
Ahad Ha'Am: Ah, give 'em a V.
• Haven for oppressed Jews?
General nod, big-time success.
• New Jew?

Gordon: Abysmal failure; everyone's a broker, professor, lawyer, entrepreneur, middle man. Who's going to till the soil? The painstakingly conceived, blister-handed Jew is on the brink of extinction.

Jabotinsky: Who cares; the even-more ardently shaped muscle-Jew is alive and kicking. These soldiers I saw are no ghetto Jews.

• The Goyim?
Reines: They hated us there, they hate our offspring here. What else is new?

Herzl: I hear that in America Gentile and Jew are buddies. There goes my theory about Zionism's antisemitic engine. Jabotinsky: My Iron Wall theory is working. The Arabs gradually realize they can't beat the Jews, and then they make peace.

Weizmann: (sigh) Yeah, but even then there's no love lost.

Ahad Ha'Am: Look, look; up north at the fence running west, east, and south of those silly radar dishes atop Mt. Hermon; aren't they successors to the ghetto walls you all so arrogantly sought to eradicate? And that Porush guy, who facilitates mass draft-dodging, and then pushes his way to the fore of fallen soldiers' memorial services — doesn't he embody the ghetto Jew you all detested?

David Ben-Gurion: Yes, the old ghetto's distraught soul and beleaguered body have somehow hitchhiked with us as we journeyed from Galut to Zion.

But hey, unlike the Jews among whom we grew up, Israelis debate their disputes in a solidly democratic parliament, defend their lives through their own army, police, GSS and Mossad, and sport an economy the like of which Sholem Aleichem's ever-bankrupt Mendel wouldn't even dare dream of when languishing in the misery of the shed.

Now all our heirs need is a social contract at home and more peace abroad. Bear with them. ■

A moment of silence

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

mourn the martyrs of the Holocaust, many of them members of their immediate family?

Has anyone ever heard of haredim playing cards in the midst of a visit to Auschwitz — the final resting place not only of their families but of a Jewish civilization they continue to honor — as did a group of army officers last summer?

Haredim feel the loss of every Jew just like every other citizen of Israel.

I remember the all-night learning vigils in yeshiva during the Peace for Galilee Campaign, and I see the faces in *shul* whenever another soldier is lost in Lebanon.

So if haredim don't share in the national mourning, why can't they stand like everyone else? The answer has nothing to do with a lack of respect for the sacrifice of those who gave up their lives in Israel's wars, but rather with the form of the remembrance.

Moments of silence, like rifle salutes at military funerals or bodies lying in state, are the mourning practices of other nations. A people in possession of its own unique forms of mourning long before those nations came into being has no need to copy them.

And there is something profoundly un-Jewish about standing doing nothing.

Fasting, undertaking a new mitzva, reciting *tehillim* (psalms)

are all more traditional ways of commemorating national tragedies. Why waste precious moments, each of which is a gift and an opportunity?

As a practical matter, however, that is an argument that will not be understood. For that reason, most haredim do stand whenever they are not in an exclusively haredi setting. There is no point in need-

If haredim do share in the national mourning, why can't they stand like everyone else?

lessly enraging and offending others.

Nor need those moments go to waste. Reflecting on the good that others have done for us is a positive mitzva. "Anyone who fails to appreciate the good done for him by his fellow man," our sages tell us, "will, in the end, deny God as well." A Jew is obligated to sensitize himself to recognize even the slightest benefit conferred upon him.

Moses brought on all the plagues in Egypt, except for those originating from the water or the earth; those plagues were initiated

by Aharon. Why? Because of the gratitude he owed the river, in which he was hidden as an infant, and the earth, with which he covered the slain Egyptian overseer.

If we are trained to recognize the benefit we derive even from inanimate objects, which act without intent, how much more so do we have to appreciate the ultimate sacrifice of our Jewish brothers.

The Talmud says of two brothers from Lod, about whom we know nothing other than they gave their lives so other Jews would be spared the ruler's retribution, that no one else is worthy of standing in their place in Heaven. And that is true of every soldier who gives his life defending his fellow Jews.

No one in whose heart there remains a trace of millennial yearning for Eretz Yisrael, can fail to shed tears when contemplating our people's return to our Land and the courage that made it possible.

That one of the smallest of the world's peoples has come home to a tiny sliver of land barely visible on a globe — the same sliver of land for which they never ceased praying for 2,000 years — has surely rank as one of history's greatest miracles.

The UN vote of 1948 and our

subsequent military victory was viewed as a "smile from Heaven" by virtually every great Torah leader of the time.

Unfortunately, we did not acknowledge the smile. Indeed the early years of the state were marked by systematic efforts to uproot belief in God.

That, however, is not the entire story. David Ben-Gurion's sense of the historical continuity of the Jewish people led him to assure a religious MK that the new state would fulfill the Emperor Vespasian's promise to Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai: Yavne and her scholars.

Not one Yavne, but dozens, have risen here from the ashes of Europe. Torah has flourished in Israel to a degree unimagined both by Ben-Gurion and the Torah leaders of his time.

Grudgingly or not, no society has ever supported Torah study to the same extent. For that and for those who have sacrificed so much to protect Israel's borders there can only be profound gratitude.

The issue is not whether haredim stand or don't, on this day or another. It is whether we constantly work on deepening our appreciation of the sacrifices from which we benefit. We must do so not in order to become more popular — we won't be — but because anything less would mark our failure as Jews to identify with the pain of our fellow Jews and to appreciate all they have given.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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"Jewish Musicians in Nazi Germany and Tribulations of their Exiles"

Introduction: Moshe Zimmermann

Tuesday, May 5, 1998, 10:30 am

The Hendel Zwig Auditorium (Ulam 300; Room 6837)
Humanities, Mount Scopus Campus
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Busy doing nothing

Which currency is backed by a population of 290 million people, a gross domestic product of \$7,000 billion, and a 21 percent slice of world trade?

None. It's a trick question, but only just, because the figures are slightly off. The population of the United States, home of the dollar, is 268 million, its GDP is \$7,200 billion, its world trade share 19.5 percent.

However, coming soon to a bank near you is the currency that fits the first criteria. Are you ready for the euro?

Israel makes a habit of being surprised by things that shouldn't surprise it. A 50th anniversary (Happy Birthday!) is a good time to warn this dollar-obsessed nation that a new champion is about to burst on the scene next year.

Since the nation is getting some currency liberalization as a birthday present, it is especially relevant to say one more time — the European currency union is not a bore, an esoteric banking instrument, or a piece of creative accounting. As of January 1, it's a reality.

The euro is a new banknote, the first truly major rival to the dollar, and a powerful symbol that the European Union is a mighty economic force to be reckoned with. Israel's government could make a useful birthday wish to pay less attention to political games and more to coming economic realities.

Helio!

It is easy to get the impression here that it is Europe that is on the other side of the Atlantic, and the US that is our next-door neighbor. However, the European Union is Israel's largest trading partner by far, it is in European cities that Israelis spend most of their vacation money, it is European-built cars (even ones with Japanese names) that clog Israel's highways, while the drivers yell into Nokia or Ericsson cell-phones. Yet the only cultural Euro-subject to catch the local imagination has been the wretched Eurovision bad-songs contest.

The conventional wisdom for a long time has been that the three currencies to dominate world affairs in the coming decades will be the dollar, the yen and the euro. Well, the yen is out of it for the moment and the dollar and the euro could come head to head quickly and substantially.

The Bank of Israel has done little to prepare the country for the impact of the euro — although Governor Jacob Frenkel is on record as saying he would like to see Israel "allying itself to the European sphere." Otherwise, maybe the wretched euro would just go away.

There are no prophets of doom left in the European Union, although there is plenty of grum-

bling and a lot of heated argument.

Just doing it Europe's ability to confound simplistic American analyses with its own complex and logic-defying solutions is legendary historic fact. Last year, the American business media seemed to be forming a view of Europe as a stagnant dusty museum — a picturesque and nostalgic place for North Americans to visit as they hurried onward to feed the Asian tigers with juicy investment steaks.

Whither Asia now? Whither, indeed, American hubris?

There is an edgy and brittle lack of self-confidence in this great American success story — just spend an hour watching business television pundits wonder how long it can all last, and jumping at every twitch of the Dow, or every sharp intake of breath by the chairman of the Federal Reserve. This is success with a damp upper lip. In Europe, the pre-euro mood is busy and businesslike — no time to agonize with econo-therapists. Noise, debate, so much to do, so little time to do it — but this is the noise of construction, the hammering home of permanent policies. It is not the whine of "are we doing the right thing?"

Only 11 of the 15 EU states made the financial criteria for membership, said the critics. Only? What other proof does one need of the utter determination of this group of nations with different languages and cultures to forge a common destiny?

Nothing much. This is not winners and losers — they don't run life on baseball metaphors in Europe. The others will follow on board without fail. Exactly one year ago, the Israel Export Institute canceled a planned seminar on the impact of the euro on the Israeli economy. No one wanted to come. In this past year it has been curious to watch the central bank, the government, business and industry, studiously ignore the upheaval in Europe and the coming of the euro. The print media have been a little better, publishing some fair warnings and analyses — probably only for the great black hole of the great unread.

What needs to be done anyway? Nothing much — maybe thinking about what national assets should be held in euros. Then there are some banking and currency trade adjustments, computer software reprogramming, accountancy procedures, trade matters, legal problems.

But maybe all this background work is done already, having been done the Israeli way — quietly, efficiently, with foresight, without fuss.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

News agencies

PRISTINA, Kosovo (Bloomberg) — Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, nine-tenths of whose people are Albanians, is sliding into war, as Serbian police and troops of the Yugoslav Federal Army with helicopters and armored vehicles pour in, and Albanian fighters prepare for battle. The *Times* of London reported.

The Democratic League of Kosovo, the main ethnic Albanian party demanding independence for the province, said the army attacked the village of Voksa, on the border with Albania, with artillery, killing 12 people, the *Financial Times* said.

Meanwhile, European Union foreign ministers said on Monday that Yugoslavia had not done enough to seek a peaceful settlement in Kosovo as ethnic Albanians buried nine dead and the Yugoslav army said it had killed three more separatists.

Greece warned that the restive Serbian province was about to explode.

A senior official of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) questioned Yugoslavia's assertion that its forces had intercepted and killed infiltrators from Albania.

The Serb-run Pristina media center quoted army sources as saying three ethnic Albanians were killed and four wounded in a firefight near the monastery town of Decani.

The Yugoslav army said it discovered "large quantities of weapons, ammunition and equipment in the area as well as bunkers dug into the hills," the media center reported.

The four wounded Albanians were to be taken to the military hospital in Nis, army sources said.

There was no independent confirmation of the clash, but the ethnic Albanian Democratic League of Kosovo reported military action near Decani and spoke of "huge casualties."

Hours after the reported clash, some 400 ethnic Albanians buried nine of their dead in the village of Herec, 80 km west of the provincial capital of Pristina.

The army said the dead were guerrillas of the clandestine Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) killed last Thursday smuggling arms from Albania into Kosovo. Ethnic Albanians, who outnumber

Kosovo sliding into war



Yugoslav army soldiers patrol the border area yesterday as a helicopter takes off on the Yugoslav-Albanian border, some 70 km southwest of Pristina. The Yugoslav army has increased security measures after frequent efforts to smuggle weapons and ammunition into Yugoslav territory for ethnic-Albanian separatists. (AP Photo/Srdjan Tic)

ber Serbs in the province nine to one, are fighting for autonomy or independence. The struggle has intensified since a Serb police crackdown on separatists two months ago killed 80 people, including women and children.

Bursts of automatic weapons fire from neighboring villages could be heard throughout the funeral, underscoring the depth of division in Kosovo.

The EU foreign ministers warned that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had a particular responsibility to promote a

peaceful settlement and regretted "that he had so far declined to shoulder fully this responsibility."

"[Ministers] agreed that additional measures against Belgrade would be taken in the case of continued failure to meet the international community's requirements," their statement said.

But the statement welcomed "indications that both sides were now trying to address the need to settle the modalities for substantive discussions."

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said a decision on further

sanctions against Belgrade would be left to the so-called Contact Group of six major powers whose political directors are due to meet in Rome today.

Officials in Washington said the US would propose offering both carrots and sticks to Yugoslavia at the meeting, with rewards if it cooperates over Kosovo but new sanctions if it does not.

A senior US official also warned that if the five other Contact Group nations — Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — did not agree to the US package,

Washington would go it alone on Yugoslavia policy.

The EU, formally implementing an arms ban first agreed on in March, imposed an embargo on supplying Yugoslavia with weapons and "equipment intended for internal repression or terrorism."

Serbs voted overwhelmingly last week to reject foreign intervention in Kosovo, where army raids on separatists and shooting attacks on Serb-controlled police stations and checkpoints are becoming routine.

Extreme Right mulls joint run for German parliament

By RONA FLECK

MUNICH (Reuters) — The leader of a shadowy party that scored the extreme right's best election result in Germany since World War II said yesterday he wanted to join forces with other far-right parties for September's general election.

Bavarian publisher Gerhard Frey said his German People's Union (DVU), which grabbed 13 percent of votes in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday, was talking with other groups about forming an ultra-right alliance.

The DVU's strong showing has brought back memories of Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1933. Frey pledged to lead the DVU,

accused of racism and anti-semitism by Germany's watchdogs against extremism, to election triumphs particularly across the formerly communist east.

"Voting right wing for young people has become part of youth culture there, just like skateboarding and techno [music]," Frey said at his first news conference since his party emerged as the region's fourth political force in Sunday's shock result.

Frey said he was holding talks with Franz Schoenhuber, the former leader of the right-wing extremist Republicans, and other groups about joining forces ahead of the general election.

"We will decide on cooperation

in the next few days," he told journalists in Munich's Mathaer, a traditional Bavarian restaurant and meeting place for the local right-wing scene.

Frey said the DVU, or Deutsche Volksunion, which says it has about 16,000 members nationwide, had 300 members in Saxony-Anhalt at the start of the campaign and this grew to 1,500.

In the same way, Frey hoped a potentially strong right-wing alliance could change Germany's political landscape, not just by winning elections but by influencing the mainstream parties.

He noted that Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), had

become tougher on refugees, and that even the candidate for chancellor of the left-leaning Social Democrats, Gerhard Schroeder, spoke out last year against "foreigners who abuse their rights as guests."

"When the old parties start behaving in a normal way and start to recognize our national interests, then I can feel I have more than fulfilled my task," Frey said, urging Germany's established parties to return to their "national roots."

Unemployment, now at a post-war record high of 4.6 million, should be tackled by channeling Germany's European Union contributions into job creation and by preventing foreigners from taking

jobs from Germans, he said.

"Fake asylum-seekers" and "criminal foreigners" should be deported immediately.

"In Saxony-Anhalt 10% of foreigners are criminals and 25% are in organized crime," he said.

Frey distanced the DVU from the skinhead scene, saying any "criminals" had been expelled, and denied it was racist, saying it included "Indians, blacks and yellows" in its ranks.

"Integrated foreigners have our friendship and devotion," said Frey, who counts other European ultra right-wingers, such as French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and Russia's Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, among his friends.

Pope 'revolted' at killing of Guatemala bishop

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II yesterday expressed his "strongest revulsion" over the assassination of a bishop in Guatemala, describing him as a man who dedicated his life to peace.

The killing of the bishop, a leading human rights campaigner, was a "violent act that threatens peace and offends the sentiments of this beloved nation," John Paul said in a condolence message to the archbishop of Guatemala.

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera was bludgeoned to death Sunday night, two days after

a report he compiled on atrocities during Guatemala's 36-year civil war was released.

The pope said he received the news with the "deepest consternation."

He said he hopes the crime "clearly shows the futility of violence and convinces all to promise to search for understanding and dialogue" and that it won't disrupt the accords that ended the civil war.

Roman Catholic leaders in Guatemala have challenged Guatemalan authorities to quickly solve the assassination.

French magazine fined for running Diana-Dodi pics

PARIS (AP) — A French judge yesterday convicted the editor of a major French magazine of invasion of privacy for publishing a picture 10 days before Princess Diana's death that appeared to show her embracing her boyfriend Dodi Fayed.

The judge also fined Roger Therond, the chief editor of *Paris Match* magazine, FR 50,000 (\$8,333) and ordered him to publish the news of the judgment in the weekly.

The case had been filed against *Paris Match* by Mohammed Fayed, Dodi's father. It was the first of several suits Fayed has brought against magazines and photographers he believes may have played a role in the death of his son and the princess.

Diana, Dodi and their driver Henri Paul were killed August 31

when their Mercedes crashed in a traffic tunnel in Paris. Only bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones survived.

Paris Match had exclusive rights for French use of the picture, which appeared to show Diana and Dodi in an embrace while on a boat off the Cote d'Azur, where they were vacationing.

The magazine published the photo August 21, just 10 days before the couple perished. The photo was taken with a long lens at a great distance, and it remains unclear whether they were actually kissing.

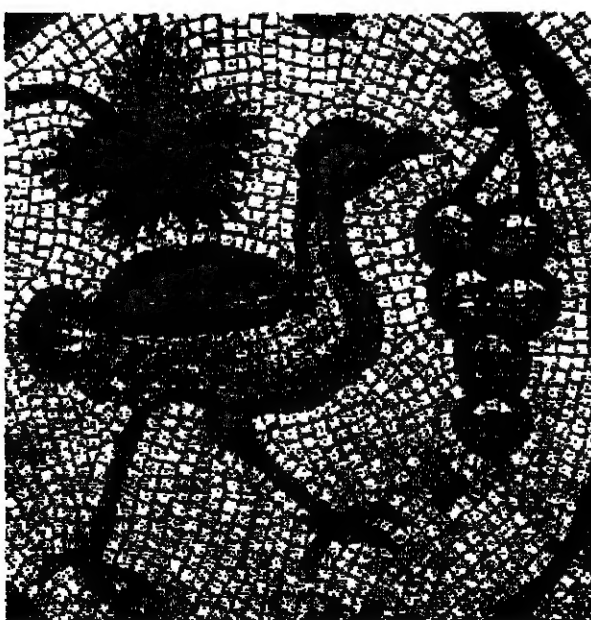
Fayed's lawyers, Bernard Darville and Laurent Merlet, had demanded FR 400,000 (\$66,666) in damages. During a hearing March 3, they reminded the judge that Fayed had appealed to *Paris Match* not to publish the picture after it had appeared in British media.

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Museum opens - 20.30, Concert - 21.00

50th ANNIVERSARY

24-28 May

Join us in celebrating The Museum's 50th Anniversary
24/ 25/ 26.5 - Archaeological tours in Jerusalem, Bet Guvrin and Northern Israel
23.5 at 21.00 - Concert with Amos Meller and the Israeli Soloists String Orchestra
27.5 at 19.30 - Lecture on "Art in Ancient Synagogues in Israel" with Prof. Lee Levine
28.5 at 16.45 - Presentation Ceremony of the "Amit Yerushalayim" (Guardian of Jerusalem) award to the founder of the Museum, Dr. Elie Borowski.

"Jerusalem Lyric Trio"
Wendy Eisler-Kashy - flute;
Amalia Ishak - soprano;
Alan Sternfield - piano

Program of classical and Israeli composers Chopin, Scarlatti, Faure, Max Stern and Gil Shohat.

Weekender

A nation celebrates



Festive concerts and fireworks displays abound throughout the country as Israel celebrates its 50th Independence Day.

Etti Ankri and David D'Or sing ethnic songs at the Jerusalem Theater's Rebecca Crown Hall tonight. (Avi Valdmann)

'Grap' some atmosphere

By SOME LEMOR

Torn between going to a pub or a restaurant? Go to both — just head on over to Grappa. At Grappa, an institution on the Jerusalem night scene, you can have your cake and eat it, too.

I can still remember the first time I walked into Grappa. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement, everyone was all spiffed up, the music was just right. It was that "I know something special is going to happen" feeling.

That was around five years ago. And whenever I want to recapture that moment, I just head on over to Grappa.

Grappa is located in downtown Jerusalem on Rehov Shimon Ben-Shetah. It's a little off the main drag, making it seem a bit more private.

Upon entering, you are immediately surrounded by the delicate aroma of French cuisine. To your left are stairs to the second floor, from which there is an aura of dim light.

A pleasant server will show you either to a table or direct you upstairs to the pub. (If you want to eat in the restaurant in the evening, reservations are strongly advised.)

In the restaurant area, you'll find families all dressed up, university students trying to impress a date, or even celebrities pretending to hide. The decor is warm and intimate, with peach-colored walls and light wooden tables.

I decided to indulge in a special just recently added to the menu, *pate de fois gras*, with a garlic and cherry tomato sauce. This was served to me by a very gracious waitress who knew the entire menu by heart, and could explain how every dish is prepared. I must warn you that this *pate* could be addictive.

If you are interested in a less formal experience, go straight upstairs to the pub. Here you'll find the trendy crowd hanging out, drinking a Carona or sipping a colorful cocktail waiting for the nightclub to open. From 10:30 on any night, the pub is full.

An advantage of the pub at Grappa is that you can order anything from the restaurant menu. I sat at the bar and had a cappuccino with the marquis chocolate. I highly recommend this delicacy of white, milk, and dark chocolate served in a vanilla sauce to anyone with a sweet tooth.

"It's a nice cozy atmosphere. I have to say I enjoy the place," says Sergio Asderhan, an architect. "The servers are definitely very cool."

The pub attracts a slightly older crowd — average age about 30 — than most Jerusalem pubs.

"I think that Grappa is a sort of yuppie place," says Ofer, an advertising executive. "I like to bring clients there for business meetings."

Grappa is open from noon to 5 p.m., then reopens at 7. The pub serves anything from the menu until 11 p.m. and closes after 2.

Grappa, 7 Ben-Shetah, Jerusalem

Songs on my mind

Singer/actor Topol talks about his favorite Israeli songs.

Topol is a patriot and a Zionist. "I know that neither is fashionable, but there you are. That's the way I was brought up," he says.

He does have a first name — Chaim — but nobody uses it. He's Topol, the man who's played Tevye the milkman close to 1,850 times in *Fiddler on the Roof*, most recently in the very successful local revival.

He's probably the best-known Israeli performer in the world thanks to the Oscar-nominated movie *Fiddler* in 1971, when he was already a local superstar thanks to his title role in the Israeli film *Salah Shabati*, the happy-go-lucky Moroccan immigrant who only wants his place in the Israeli sun. Before that, he'd been in that star incubator, the Nahal Troupe.

Salah Shabati led to the role of Tevye in the London production when Topol was 32, and the rest, as they say, is history.

But playing Tevye wouldn't have been enough to sustain an international career in which he has played a variety of dramatic roles, including the title roles in Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Galileo* by Bertold Brecht.

Topol is a big talent, and he knows it. On stage and off it, he is a star — not that he tries to be, it's just that he's a bit larger than life.

He has places to live abroad, but home is here, in Tel Aviv, where he lives with his wife, Galia, and where the three children alight when they're in town. He's also been here during our many wars, leaving a *Fiddler* revival on Broadway because of the Gulf War in 1991 "to do his bit," which meant helping the then-IDF spokesman, Nahman Shah.

In a couple of weeks, it's back to London, where Topol will play the title role in a revival of the musical *Zorba*. Meanwhile, he's home for Independence Day.

The Israeli songs he's chosen as his favorites are personal milestones in some way.

1. The Lehi anthem "Unknown Soldiers" by Yair Stern

"Because I witnessed the British taking Stern's body away after they'd shot him. We lived five houses away. We were at no. 18 Mizrahi B, and he was at no. 8. We heard the shots and I went out into the street."

[Yair Stern, the founder and leader of the underground movement Lehi, was assassinated by the British in February 1942 in the Florentine quarter of Tel Aviv where he was hiding.]

5. "Al Kol Ela" (All of These) by Naomi Shemer

"I like Naomi and have sung many of her songs, but this is one of my particular favorites. It expresses all our feelings because we all know there's no honey without the thorn. It's a song of prayer and praise, and I particularly like the line which says 'Let's not rip up what's planted.' We were taught that planting and building are the most important things we can do."



3. Horas and "Kita Almonit" ("Anonymous Platoon")

"I had a hard time choosing, so we're going to have to take all of them — 'Hara Martera' 'Hara He'azut' and 'Kita Almonit' were the songs I was singing in the Nahal Troupe. We sang them with so much conviction, and I'm still fired by that, even in these cynical times — that it's a real joy to bring water to the Negev, to build a border settlement. Without those unsung heroes — the conscripts — we'd all be sleeping less soundly."

4. "Anachnu Shazim Me'oto Hakfar" ("We're Both from the Same Village") by Naomi Shemer

"This is a song a guy sings to his buddy about how they grew up together, were always together until one of them fell in battle, and the singer is mourning his friend. Why that song? Because I have many friends like that."

5. "Al Kol Ela" (All of These) by Naomi Shemer

"I like Naomi and have sung many of her songs, but this is one of my particular favorites. It expresses all our feelings because we all know there's no honey without the thorn. It's a song of prayer and praise, and I particularly like the line which says 'Let's not rip up what's planted.' We were taught that planting and building are the most important things we can do."

— Helen Kaye

By HELEN KAYE

Everybody is set on making tomorrow the brightest Independence Day ever — until the centennial, that is. So let's list what's doin'.

Jubilee Bells, the big multimedia, multistar, multishel celebration at the Givat Ram Stadium in Jerusalem has to head the list of where to go and what to do on our 50th birthday. But if you haven't bought one of the 8,000 available tickets, you'll have to content yourself with watching the show on TV, starting at 8:30 tomorrow night on Channels 1, 2 and ITV.

If you are going, dress in layers because temperatures plummet at night. And be warned: It's advisable to arrive early because of the security checks and because the show will close at 7 p.m.

Not to worry, however, because there'll be warm-up shows on the stage until proceedings start with the ceremonial entry of President Ezer Weizman, US Vice-President Al Gore, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Then, after the obligatory speeches, there's 90 minutes of spectacle, including Rikl stepping out of a huge Magen David to sing the national anthem.

Staying in Jerusalem, the municipality is ushering in festivities today with free entertainment, dancing and singing on stages all over town, including Zion Square, Independence Garden, the sports

grounds in East Talpiot, and the shopping center at Ramat Eshkol. Then there'll be fireworks in East Talpiot, Pisgat Ze'ev, Baka, Ramat Eshkol and Gilo at 10:15 p.m.

At 10:30 the sky will explode with more fireworks at the Jerusalem Theater and the City Center. It's more of the same for Beit Hakerem at 10:45, and so on until the last lot at Kiryat Hayovel near Denya Park at 11:45 p.m.

Tonight there's a big jubilee party in all three halls of the Jerusalem Theater, where the price of your ticket includes entry to the dance party in the foyer where you can have cocktails before the concert, after which you can dance to the Sixties Ensemble until the wee hours.

David D'Or and Etti Ankri hold court at Rebecca Crown at 10 p.m. with an ethnic mix of songs, including one commissioned for the event. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Shalton plays Noam Sherriff and Tchaikovsky at 9:15 p.m. at Henry Crown, while on the Sherover stage Shlomo Gronich, Michal Adler and the Ethiopian Shiva Choir entertain at 10 p.m.

MOVING down to Tel Aviv, tonight at 9 p.m., dance troupes join Yuval Banai and many more stars for an evening that culminates with fireworks at 10 and again at 11 p.m.

Then everybody can troop down to the Tel Aviv Museum Plaza, where tables will be set up for a huge urban *kumzitz*. It'll be sing-along time until the wee hours with the likes of the Friends of Beni, Hanan Yovel, the Parvarim, Israeli Gurion, Danny Robas, Dafna Armoni, Meital Trabelsi and more. Best of all, the words (in Hebrew) will be projected on a large screen.

Across town at Park Darom in south Tel Aviv at 9 p.m., Etti Levi, Araf, and Sfatayim are among the entertainers. There'll be fireworks at 10 and 11 p.m. there, too.

Tomorrow there will be the usual fly-by and naval show along the beach, which is always fun, especially when the F15s and F16s thunder across the sky with so elemental a noise that you want to scream with them. Let's hope that the aerobatic team has some new routines in honor of the occasion. This takes place at about 1 p.m.

IN Haifa, the municipality has provided 15 stages tonight throughout the Haifa area. The Haifa Auditorium plaza features Hani Nahmias, Ariel Zilber and High Five among others from 8:45 p.m. The same stars are slated to appear at Abba Kushi house from 8:45 on; they'll probably run from one venue to another. Riki Gal, magicians and a Hassidic orchestra are on the program in Kiryat Eliezer from 9 p.m.

For the observant community, the fun starts at 10:30 p.m. near Kikar Hovev. There'll be dancing and fireworks from 9:30 p.m.

There'll be more fireworks (same time) at the Memorial Garden in Hadar, along with a show from 8:30 p.m. which headlines that incredible comic team of Momy Moshonov and Shlomo Bar Abba.

Strangely, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna has decreed that it's "invitees only" tonight. The general public is invited tomorrow night. You'd think it would be the other way around.

On the other hand, there's an enticing Independence Rock extravaganza from midnight until dawn at the Kiryat Eliezer stadium with headliners Ethnix and Eyal Golan, Gidi Gov and Aviv Geffen (if he recovers from the accident with his bicycle last week). For tickets, call (04) 866-2244.

SWOOPING down south to Beersheba, the municipality plaza features the local youth orchestra, Avihu Medina, Lea Lofin and rock for the kids with Pablo Rosenberg. That all starts at 8:30 p.m. and at 9:45 there'll be fireworks. Those who remember fondly singing around the campfire can go along the Omer road to Beit Eshel where, from midnight, there'll be Dov Birkenfeld, the Shaked Trio, and aromatic coffee to heighten the atmosphere. All this happens tonight.

Down the road apiece at Kibbutz Magen, the kibbutzniks are opening their War of Independence battle site to the public as a tribute to the jubilee," says the kib-

butz spokesperson. There's a 100-meter high, strategically placed hill which two Golani brigades wrested from the Egyptian army after a fierce battle. The Egyptians were entrenched in Sheikh Nuran's tomb. The attackers' main artillery was a Bren carrier — they're both on view from tomorrow.

Also tonight, from 8:30 p.m. at the Hamashbir Plaza, there'll be folk-dancing, jazz singing, Margalit Tsamoni and Ethnix (and how are they going to get from Ra'anana to Kiryat Eliezer? It's a lo-o-o-ng night!).

And as usual, all those kibbutzim which have tourist attractions will be offering something special tomorrow for the whole family. There'll be an exhibition of weapons from the 1948 war at Ayelet Hashahar (06-693-2721).

Children whose names are "Israel" or "Israella" (documented proof is required), get in free at Gan-Garoo at Nir David (06-648-8060).

Is there something else? You bet. Every square centimeter of park space throughout the country is covered with families picnicking. The smoky smell of spiced meats roasting on the grill is as much a part of Independence Day as speeches (and much more fun).

Do we deserve our celebration? You bet.

Jerusalem

While the city rages in a storm of jubilee events, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel keeps serenity at hand, with a flower tour of Emek Azarim led by Prof. Avi Shmida. The group meets this morning at 9 a.m. in Ramot Bet and does not neglect a cultural element: at 12 p.m. the group will be joined by the Ramot Harmonia singers for an hour of entertainment. Picnic to follow. Call Esther Reiss at (02) 586-5219.

And Points Beyond

Shame on anyone who has not yet seen Ensemble Itim's vibrant and moving *Voyager Voyelech*. This movement-dance-drama based on Israel's favorite text (the Bible) plays tonight at Ramat Gan Theater. Starts at 8 p.m. Call (03) 523-3335.

The fun and fanciful Ra'anana Symphonette performs a free open-air concert tonight in its very own hometown, in the Ra'anana Yad Lebanon Plaza. Concert begins at 7:15 p.m.



Walter Blanding swings tonight at Camelot. (Debbie Hill)

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHENDELIN

Tel Aviv

Escape from brawling bashes and Independence overload tonight involves eclectic music and film — and some of the classic stuff as well.

Beit Lessin stands its regular Thursday night ground with an evening of new rock bands, starting at 10:30 p.m. Off Medina Square. Call (03) 694-1111.

The Underground Hall offers an eclectic and decidedly funky musical sampling tonight at the

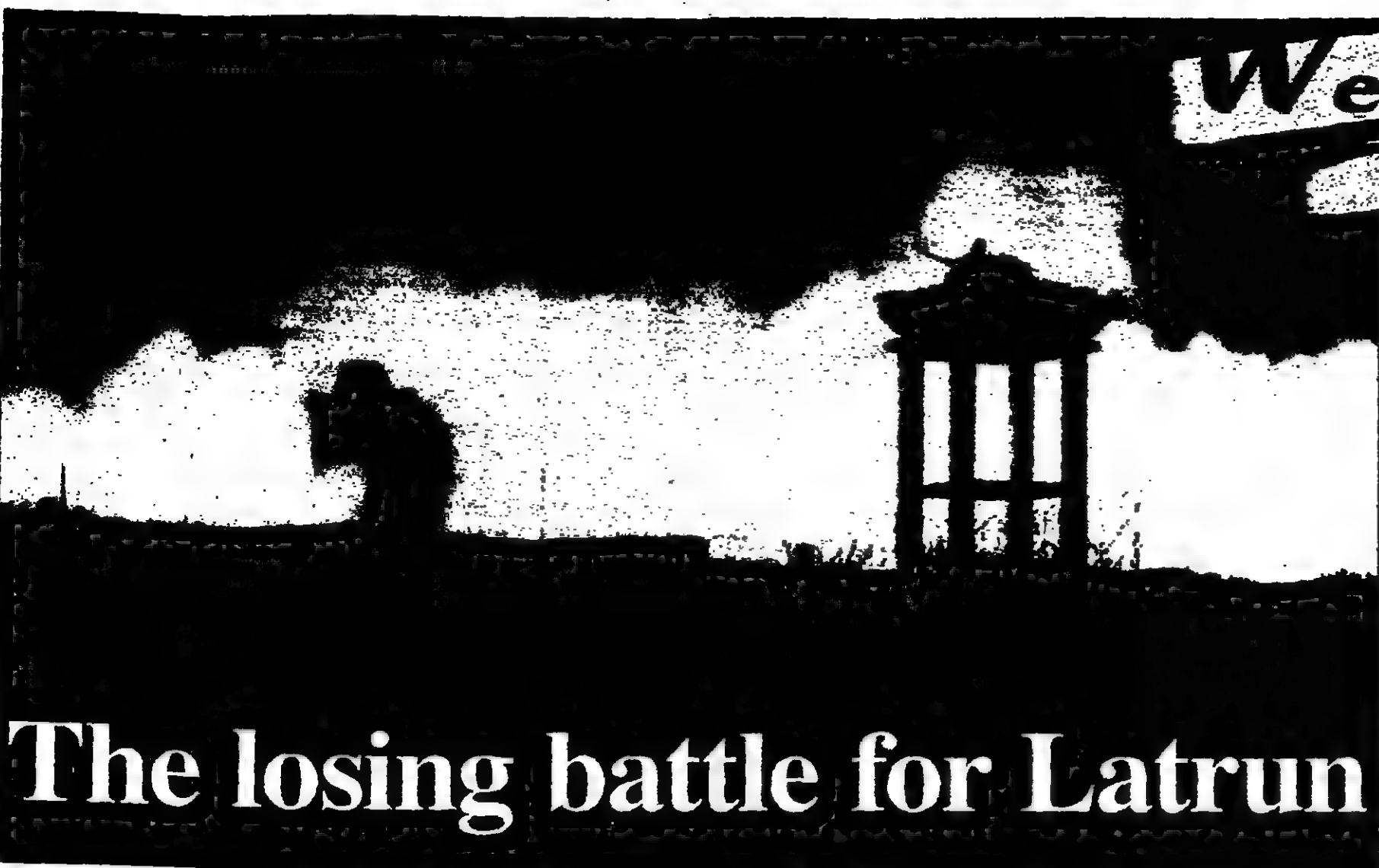
Zionist Organization of America House, featuring Bella Donna, Funks, Carp and Wild Man; beginning at 10:30 p.m.

For those who take their jazz straight up, visit Camelot where the Walter Blanding Quartet starts swinging at 11 p.m. tonight. Call (03) 629-9071.

The Cinematheque presents a genuinely weird film experience tonight but claims that it is showing *Face/Off* by popular demand. Nicholas Cage and John Travolta do revolting things with obvious body parts, starting at 9:30 p.m. A wild 50th D.J. party follows.

Habimah presents *Sitra Kama* at 9 p.m. tonight. Call (03) 620-7777 for tickets.

Decidedly more serious is Geshet Theater (this evening it's the grown-ups) performing the surreal, abstract and disturbing *Adam Resurrected*, a Holocaust tale based on the novel by Yoram Kaniuk. Remarkable acting and high-level tension characterize the production. Atmosphere is added by the setting in the circus tent at the Redding terminal. At 8:30 p.m. Call (03) 518-2853.



Weekender Travel

The losing battle for Latrun

Everyday, thousands of cars on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway zoom past the junction on the road to Ashdod, passing the old British police fortress of Latrun, with a tank perched on a tower beside it. The tank monument is part of a museum and memorial to the armored corps of the IDF.

But the Latrun fortress itself stands as a sort of monument to the bloody struggles that took place for this crucial point 50 years ago during the War of Independence.

The protracted battles that exploded around the fortress and wheat fields of Latrun, like those of the entire war, were marked by chaos, acute shortages of materials and manpower, dissent within the command structure, and the mistakes that appear tragic and even

stupid in hindsight. The battles were also characterized by luck, incredible courage, sacrifice and determination.

From the observation post on the roof of the fort, the crucial importance of this topography becomes clear. To the west and south, the hills are low, gentle, rolling. But east of the fortress the hills thrust up with sudden ruggedness.

According to the Biblical account, Joshua charged down after the Amorites from the Hiron descent, northeast of here in the Ayalon Valley. There the Amorites were pummeled with stones from the heavens, and the sun and moon stood still while Joshua finished them off. Also near here Judah the

Maccabee defeated the Seleucids. King Richard the Lionhearted was also here: The ruins of a Crusader fortress he controlled gaze down from the high ridge-top to the east.

Close Encounters

By Allan Rabinowitz

And on these gentle swells, golden with wheat in the spring of 1948, with the Jewish state just 10 days old, European refugees fresh off the boat, with no training and little Hebrew, charged toward this massive fortress with its iron gun slits.

David Ben-Gurion had insisted repeatedly that Latrun must — and could — be taken.

Latrun guarded the access to the Sha'ar Hagai pass, four kilometers eastward, where the road to Jerusalem narrowed into a stony ravine. Without that pass the Jerusalem road could not be controlled. The 95,000 Jews in Jerusalem were in danger of starvation and capture, and the city itself would be lost.

Ben-Gurion insisted on saving Jerusalem by taking Latrun. Chief of staff Yigael Yadin fiercely opposed the effort, arguing that it would dangerously weaken already embattled forces. Yadin believed that Jerusalem could be dealt with later, and that a direct assault on Latrun would be suicidal.

Ironically, the Arab garrison had

abandoned the outpost shortly before. An Israeli unit had moved in and had also left. So the focus of several future, bloody battles was left empty for two critical days, before an Arab force returned.

A sense of foreboding gripped the usually confident Israeli officers as rapid battle plans were laid out and new immigrants were gathered at their launching point. The names of some were not even officially registered anywhere.

They had trained for barely a week, had no common language, were issued outdated weapons, some of them holding guns for the first time. Some of the men wore bright shirts and sandals. They lacked enough water to withstand the scorching heat.

What was meant to be a surprise

pre-dawn attack started late, and the rising sun revealed motley units charging across the wheat fields. But heavy artillery was rained on every rise and gully.

The attack fell apart as Arab sharpshooters ravaged the disintegrating ranks. Raw recruits, screaming in Yiddish, broken Hebrew and a cacophony of other languages, panicked and broke ranks, to be mowed down like the wheat around them. Remnants who gathered on a hill were in danger of encirclement and retreated with the dead and seriously wounded who had been uncharacteristically left behind.

A second attack, commanded by the American colonel Mickey Marcus, nearly succeeded, with Israeli sappers and armored cars penetrating the fortress courtyard; the shell holes can still be seen in the thick walls. But enemy artillery, and a series of mistakes, missed cues and unused forces turned it into defeat.

By the time a third attack was launched, the alternative Burma Road — a thin track to the south that was carved out and completed with stunning daring and rapidity — now threaded the steep, rocky hills toward Jerusalem. Four attempts failed to take the fortress, but ultimately the Burma Road allowed Israeli convoys to bypass Latrun completely.

Today, armored vehicles, including tanks from the 1948 war, again surround Latrun as part of the armored corps museum and memorial there. The strength and sophistication of Israel's armor since then, on view at the museum, offers a sharp contrast to the vulnerable contraptions scraped

together for the assault on Latrun 50 years ago.

Displays include the American tanks that are part of Israel's modern arsenal, Russian tanks captured from Arab armies and several models of the innovative Israeli Merkava, considered one of the best tanks in the world.

Inside the museum, a movie highlights the versatility of modern armored vehicles and the cameraderie and expertise of tankists. For me, the most powerful scene in the film is a blind tankist pleading for the ability to see his baby daughter for just one moment.

Outside, a long wall, engraved with names, honors the armored corps soldiers who died in action. But inside, there is a different kind of memorial, a computer filled with files on the lives of the fallen soldiers, with reminiscences by family and friends. As the user learns about these lives lopped short, of the individuality of each man listed on the outside wall, the enormity of the losses becomes overpowering.

But for so many who tried to take this strategic point in their first days in their new homeland, to help save lives in Jerusalem, there are no computer files; their names remain unknown.

The Latrun fortress is currently undergoing renovations, but can still be visited. Tours in English and Hebrew with armored corps guides are available if arranged in advance. Open Sun-Thurs, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tel. (08) 924-6722.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

The W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research warmly congratulates its colleague and friend

Professor Trude Dothan

on the award of the

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Office of the Prime Minister

Summary of instructions regarding the legal holidays of Independence Day and the Friday immediately following

As every year, Independence Day this year (April 30, 1998), will be a legal holiday, in accordance with the regulations of the Independence Day Law, 5709/1948 (hereunder "the Independence Day Law").

Having in mind the celebrations for Independence Day and the Jubilee, the Knesset has enacted the Independence Day Law (Jubilee of Israel's Independence) 5758/1998 (hereunder "the temporary provision"), which establishes the day following Independence Day (Friday, May 1, 1998) as an additional legal holiday.

The Independence Day Law and the temporary provision grant the Prime Minister the authority to determine which types of work will be carried out, and which services will be provided on Independence Day and on the additional legal holiday.

Under this authority, the Prime Minister has issued the following instructions:

1. The arrangements in effect every year on Independence Day will also apply this year, unless specific instructions to the contrary are given below.
2. The work and services that are provided every year on Independence Day will also be performed on the additional legal holiday.
3. In municipalities and the areas of other local authorities, the following work will be carried out and services provided:
 - Garbage collection, running of water and sewerage utilities, emergency services including veterinary services, and municipal hotline and fire fighting services.
4. Commerce: On Independence Day and the additional legal holiday, the following will operate:
 - a. Restaurants and gas stations will be open on Independence Day and the additional legal holiday.
 - b. Supermarket chains and malls, as defined below, will operate as follows: "Mall" - a closed building containing a large number of stores, one or more of which are required to operate and provide services, in accordance with the above law. "Basic food products" - milk and milk products, bread and bread products, eggs and meat. Supermarket chains will operate on the additional legal holiday, to the extent necessary to provide a regular supply of basic food products for the public. Malls will operate on Independence Day and the additional legal holiday to the extent necessary for the regular operation of those stores which are required to work on these days, as specified above, and to the extent necessary for the regular operation of the entertainment establishments located there.
5. Industry: On the additional legal holiday, work and services will continue in those plants in which production must be carried out without interruption (including glassworks, metal foundries, refineries, cement plants, etc.), as well as food plants which normally work in three shifts round the clock, to provide a continuous supply to supermarket chains. In addition, work will be carried out on the additional legal holiday by suppliers of basic food products to stores, to the extent necessary for the regular operation of supermarket chains on that day. Without affecting any of the above provisions, dairies and plants which produce milk products will operate to the extent necessary to prevent damage and to ensure the regular supply of milk products, on the additional legal holiday and afterwards.

It should be noted that Independence Day and the additional legal holiday have not been designated "days of rest" under the Work Hours and Rest Days Law, 5711-1957, and there is therefore no prohibition against working on these days.

In addition, it should be emphasized that the Prime Minister's instructions, as specified above, do not affect arrangements made under labor agreements at places of work, concerning Independence Day and the additional legal holiday. These matters are to be arranged in accordance with the labor agreements at these work places, and agreements made, in line with collective labor agreements.

Shimon Stein
Legal Advisor

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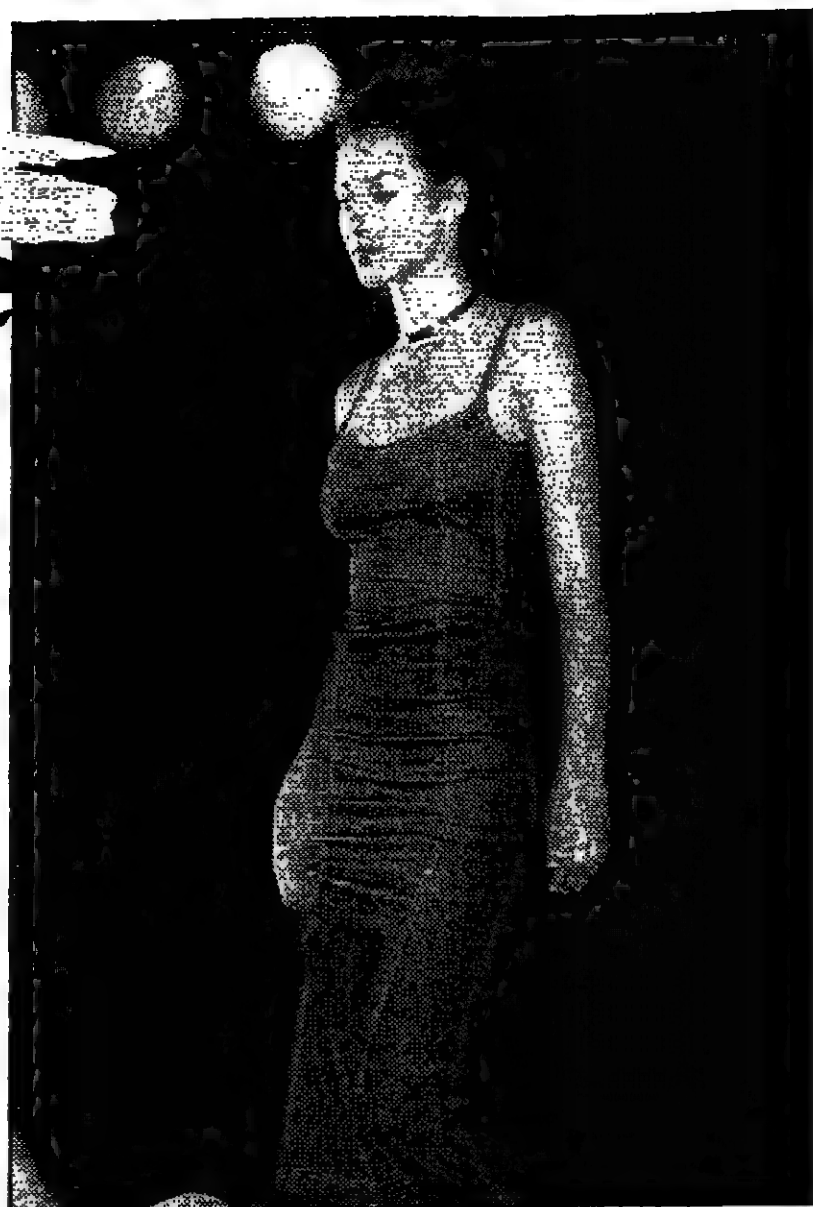
Actress and socialite Dalia Lavi draped in a Gideon Oberson gown.



Galit Guttman in a patriotic Gortex swimsuit.



(From left) International model Yaron Fink dons a Gershon Bram suit; Business tycoon turned politician Pinna Rosenbloom in an evening gown by her personal designer Daniel Goldenberg; Full-bodied beauty Stella Amar, in towering platforms, models a gown by Oushida.



Veteran fashion house Castro shows contemporary evening dresses in denim-lycra.



50 years of fashion

After producing last Tuesday's fabulous retrospective of 50 years of Israeli fashion, Motti Reif, who directs most of the country's topline fashion shows, can go into retirement. There's no way he's going to do anything bigger and better, unless someone hires him to produce a show featuring the clothes of the century and the mantles of the millennium.

Aside from its nostalgia and entertainment value, the show proved that even in its underdeveloped state, Israel has been far on a backwater on the world fashion scene. Some of the designs dating back 40 years plus looked more in vogue than current "retro" fashions.

The show also provided an opportunity to mor two of the people who have made the greatest impact on Israel's fashion scene. I have done more than anyone else to create Israel's fashion image abroad.

Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo presented ottex matriarch Lea Gottlieb with a lifetime achievement award – a gold dressmaker's dummy – which is fashion's answer to the Oscar. WIZO President Michal Moda'i, 10, was Israel's first beauty queen, predated a similar award to Gideon Oberson. Moda'i was one of a long list of former beauty queens and Miss Israels who graced the runway. Some of the others included Rita Rina, Liora Lapidot, Hava Levy, Karin Rasky, Sapir Kaufman, Ilana Shoshan and emotional film star Dalia Lavi. They all look gorgeous, with just a little more sass than they had when they were younger. It's a dissension, another former queen the catwalk who still cuts an aristocratic

and graceful figure, also proved that she still has tremendous presence, as did business tycoon Pinna Rosenbloom, who is now casting her hat into the political ring.

The participation of so many attractive women whose faces once graced the covers of magazines reinforced the message that clothes in themselves do not necessarily make fashion. It's the people who wear them that give them their panache.

THE WHOLE concept of the show was to bring to life the history of the country's fashion. Its execution was a joy to behold. Not only were past-era fashions recreated or brought out of mothballs, but even the make-up and hairstyles were resurrected – the latter with the help of wigs and hairpieces.

With such a huge investment in time, energy and money, it was a pity that many of the scenes were so fleeting. It would have been much more pleasurable to see the garments paraded at a leisurely pace so that spectators could gain a better appreciation of the styles of yesteryear and reflect nostalgically on what they themselves had worn. Seeing clothes in motion is not quite the same as looking at still photographs of the same garments.

There were a few glitches and technical hitches; all the emcees used both hand-held cards and teleprompters, but the texts didn't always correspond to the action, and scenes had to be reshoot.

The fashion industry, while known for its

bitchiness, does not begrudge achievement and fame. When looking back at people who set the tone for Israel's trends across the decades, the retrospective gave ample credit to the first ladies of fashion in the nascent state: the late Fanny Leitersdorf and Lola Beer, both the incarnation of elegance.

A special memorial video was shown in tribute to panther-like super model Tami Ben-Ami, who died of cancer three years ago. Posing in Gortex swim- and beachwear, she made her own contribution to Israel's place on the international fashion map.

Divas, one of the more veteran fashion companies, which runs slightly behind Gortex and Gideon Oberson in the swimwear stakes, but nonetheless produces gorgeous garments, showed some of its '50s creations. They looked as if they'd just come off this season's drawing board.

Fashion is one area in which it can truly be said that what goes around comes around. The magnificent, sophisticated knitwear items that Pinna Shalom produced 30 and 40 years ago for the gala Israel Bond fund-raisers in the US looked as modern as tomorrow's fashions, partially because knits are back in vogue, but also because their classic chic never really goes out of style.

The ethnic look developed by Rojy Ben Yosef for the now defunct Rikma company looked as timeless last week as it did 20 years ago, when she used striped towel and curtain fabrics to create the fluid but striking dresses that foreign fashion writers

gushed over.

Niba, a pre-State clothier with enormous staying power, showed vintage dresses in enchanting black and white prints teamed with socks and sandals – not a lot different from what Niba is doing today.

Castro, another veteran company, showed contemporary evening dresses in denim-lycra. Castro is among the fashion houses and designers also familiar to the current younger generation. Others included Rosh Indiani, Dorin Frankfurt, Hagara, Dorit Sadeh and Oushida, which revived the sheer, full skirted romantic dresses over swirling petticoats which many years ago were worn to Tel Aviv dances.

Clothes worn by entertainers are often copied in street fashions. This can hardly be said of the exotic gowns associated with singer Shoshana Damari. But because they are so special, they too had a place in this fascinating fashion caravan. Damari herself made an appearance in a sky-blue bordered turquoise ensemble designed by Yehuda D'Or. This time she didn't sing; that honor was accorded to Yardena Arazi.

There isn't room here to do justice to everyone who had a hand in the production; but suffice to say that despite frequent technical problems, it was one of Israel's finer hours away from the battlefield.

The edited version was shown on Sunday on Channel 2, a copy of which will eventually find its way to the Shenkar College library, where it can be a learning tool, an item of historic record, a source of entertainment and a trip down memory lane for anyone who feels a yearning for the past.

Bridge Counting on Omar

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North (Granovetter)
♠ J 9 2
♥ K Q 10 5 4
♦ 4
♣ K J 8 5

West (Chemla) East (Omar)
♠ A 7 6 5 ♠ 8 4 3
♥ 9 8 ♥ J 6
♦ A 9 6 ♦ Q 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 10 9 4 3 ♣ A 6

South (Zia)
♠ K Q 10
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ K J 2
♣ Q 7 2

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	3♠	pass
3NT	(all pass)		

Opening lead: ♠9

The fourth Generali Masters, an individual event held two weeks ago in Corsica, was won by Paul Chemla of Paris (men's division) and Migdi Tzur-Alba of Tel Aviv (women's division). Generali, one of the largest insurance groups in the world, offered 300,000 francs in cash prizes.

Individuals are events where everyone partners everyone else. These two events were by invitation to 52 men and 28 women from around the world, playing 102 deals in the men's and 84 deals in the women's, scored by matchpoints. Tzur-Alba's regular partner, Ruth Levi-Porat, finished fourth in the women's division. These two players have been the mainstay of the Israeli Women's Team for many years and have won the bronze medal twice in the European Ladies Teams.

Paul Chemla is a current Bermuda Bowl champion, having won the World Team Championship last year in Tunisia, and has also won the Team Olympiad for France in 1980 in Valkenburg and 1992 in Salsomaggiore. More recently, he won the European Mixed Teams two weeks prior to the Generali.

Chemla sat West in today's deal, which comes from a Dutch invitational pair event played in the Hague in 1987. I remember the hand well because I was sitting North as the dummy on a deal in which I should never have been dummy. My partner, sitting South, was Zia Mahmood, formerly of

Pakistan, now residing in New York. And East was the famous film star, Omar Sharif. (Whenever the counting of the Omar comes around, between Passover and Shavuot, I seem to recall deals I've played against Omar.)

North-South were using weak notrumps and five-card majors. An opening one notrump would have shown 12-to-14 points, and a one-heart opening would have shown a five-card suit, so South had to start with one club. Over the one-heart response, South rebid one notrump, showing 15-to-17 points. His suppression of the four-card heart support – the pedestrian bid was a raise to two hearts – was due to his balanced shape, his personal propensity toward making the abnormal call and his general desire to steal the hand from his partner.

Unfortunately, I was his partner! The jump to three clubs was forcing and South had a second chance to show heart support but instead bid three notrump, making North the dummy. Chemla (West), perhaps trying to outdo Zia in the flair department, led the nine of diamonds. Omar (East) played the queen and Zia won the king. Zia led a heart to dummy's king and called for the five of clubs. Omar went up with his ace of clubs and played back the ten of diamonds.

This was the crucial moment. If Zia covered with the jack of diamonds, Chemla would win the ace and return a diamond to Omar's long suit, and the contract would be down three tricks. If Zia played low on the ten of diamonds, the 10 would win the trick, but the diamond suit would be blocked. The best the defenders could do would be to cash two diamond tricks and their two black aces – making three notrumps.

Zia thought about it and finally played the jack of diamonds on the 10. So he went three down. Later he told me he was counting on Omar to hold the A-Q-10 fifth of diamonds. I argued with him, saying, first, you have to be Jewish to count the Omar and second, if you want to count on Omar, then count on him overcalling two diamonds if he held a long, strong diamond suit and an outside ace.

Since he did not overcall, he was not likely to hold that strong of a suit. Nevertheless, the truth is that it was Chemla's clever opening lead that convinced my partner that the ace of diamonds was on his right.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at gran@nervision.net.il

Chess Don't cry over Karpov

By ROEL NORT

As I write, Anatoly Karpov is languishing without victory on three-and-a-half points out of nine at the traditional Hoogovens tournament in Holland. It is a very poor performance and one which would have been inconceivable some time ago. But before we shed too many tears, perhaps we should consider whether he is really deserving of our sympathy.

Over the years there have been several changes to the regulation of the World Championship which would appear to an impartial onlooker (of which admittedly I am not one), to have benefited Karpov and Karpov alone. I refer not to the fact that he became World Champion in 1975 without having to play a World Championship Match, although some people, particularly Americans, still hold that against him. No, I refer to him being uniquely granted the right of a rematch after losing to Kasparov in 1985, which, on an elementary mathematical calculation, gave him a 75 percent chance of retaining his title.

Of course, as we know, the granting of this grotesque privilege was insufficient. He was then, without precedent, seeded directly to the Candidates' Final (instead of slugging his way through the matches) where he merely had to dispose of Andrei Sokolov before being offered an other crack at Kasparov. He failed again.

Karpov's big break came when I crushed him in 1992. Had he beaten me, he would have needed to beat Timman and Kasparov to become World Champion. By losing he only needed to beat Timman (whom I had already beaten) to become FIDE World Champion.

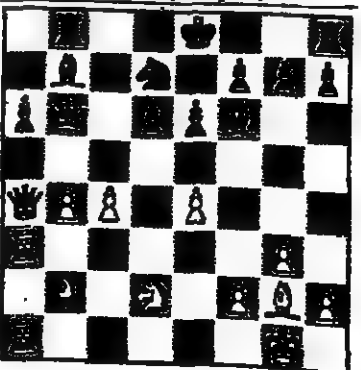
As if this were not enough, his recent event in Lausanne was rigged so blatantly that it was inevitable that he would meet a challenger at the point of physical collapse.

Perhaps Karpov's miserable play of late will curtail his deceitful posing, but I wouldn't count on it.

White: Salov
Black: Karpov
Wijk aan Zee, 1998

1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb6 5. Nbd2 Bb7, arguing that the knight is misplaced on d2. 6. Bg2 c5 7. e4 exd4 8. 0-0! d6 8. ...Nxe4? is too risky eg 9. Nc5 d5 (9. ...Nd6 10. Bxb7 Nxb7 11. Qf3) 10. exd5 exd5 11. Qa4+ Nd7 12. Nxe4 dxe4 13. Bb3 with a decisive attack. 9. Nxd4 a6!! By no means an improvement upon the stem game Ivanchuk-Karpov, Linares 1994 when 9. ...Qd7 led to a Black victory after some horrible play by White. 10. Re1 Qe7 11. a4! energetically exploiting his lead in development. 11. ...Nc6 12. Nxc6 Bxc6 13. a5! Bb8 13. ...bxa5 14. Nb3 a4 15. Nd4 is likewise nasty. 14. axb6 Qxb6 15. Re3 a clever deployment of the rook. 15. ...Nd7 16. Bb3 Qa7 17. Bxb3 Bb7, horribly passive, but after 17. ...Nc5 18. Qc2 Be7 19. b4! Rxb4 20. Qc3 Black runs into difficulties. 18. b4 Qb6 19. Qa4 Be7 20. Bb2 Bb6

Black: (Karpov)



White: (Salov) to play

21.e5! Energetically exploiting the disorderly Black forces. 21. ...Bxe5 22. c5 Qe7 23. Bxe5 dxe5 24. Bxb7 Rxb7 25. c6 Nb6 26. Qx6 Qx6 Losing a piece, but Karpov probably didn't fancy his prospects against the two connected past pawns with 26. ...Rb8. The end comes quickly now. 27. Ne4 Rb8 28. Nxb6 0-0 28. ...Rxb6 29. Qa8+ 29. Ne4 Qd4 30. Re3 Qd5 31. Rxe5 Rf8 32. Qd3. If 32. ...Rxb4 33. Qxd5 exd5 34. Nc6! exploits the back rank again. Black resigned. A fine game by Valery Salov.

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'We are not freiers'

If Arafat declares a state, Israel will show that it also can take unilateral action, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tells *The Jerusalem Post's* Herb Keiron and Saul Singer in a wide-ranging interview

Sunday was a nothing-out-of-the-ordinary kind of day for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

In the morning he chaired a short cabinet meeting, and in the afternoon he met for a couple of hours with US envoy Dennis Ross. A special cabinet meeting to deal with rising unemployment was postponed for a week because of the prime minister's tight schedule.

At nightfall, after Ross headed to Gaza for a meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Netanyahu did what he does so well — grant interviews. Indeed, the prime minister turned himself into a veritable interview machine.

Journalist after journalist waited in his office, squirming impatiently on soft, enveloping couches for the once-every-50-year jubilee interview with the prime minister.

First Ilana Dayan and Gidi Gov were there for a Channel 2 jubilee special. Then a reporter from the Russian language Vesti, followed by a correspondent from Vesti's competitor, Novosti Nedei. And finally, at nearly 11 p.m., three hours later than scheduled, *The Jerusalem Post*.

The prime minister's bureau felt like a dentist's office. Journalists were ushered into Netanyahu's inner sanctum, given 20 to 30 minutes, and ushered out.

The time of day was barely felt inside the brightly lit corridors, as phones rang, televisions and radios blared, and people still came and went close to midnight. The time of day was also difficult to discern on Netanyahu's face.

Netanyahu sat behind his large, uncluttered desk, in front of four pictures of his family resting on bookshelves behind him. He answered question after question — in signature Netanyahu fashion, without missing a beat.

The room was inordinately cool, the air conditioner working overtime even on this July Jerusalem night to keep the office's chief occupant — wearing a coat and tie and obviously under intense pressure — cool.

Jubilees don't come around every day. As such, Netanyahu was eager to talk about the "vision thing." He was more interested in discussing the last 50 years in generalities than in giving specifics about the diplomatic maneuvers of the last few days.

What follows are excerpts of the interview:

In your discussions with Ross, what is holding up the negotiations with the Palestinians, the second withdrawal, or the third withdrawal?

We insist on two principles. One is reciprocity, which means the Palestinians have to carry out the promises they gave us time and time again in the Hebron and Oslo accords. The second is the principle that Israel and only Israel can determine its security requirements, and hence the extent of the redeployment. That is a fairly succinct summation of the problems we have.

Do you think Arafat will declare a Palestinian state in May 1999?

I strongly advise him not to. We prefer a negotiated solution, not unilateral actions where one side imposes his view of a final settlement on the other. Obviously if Arafat insists on going it alone, he will encounter unilateral actions on our part, which we prefer not to take, and the consequences will not benefit the Palestinians or peace.

The best thing to do is to avoid unilateral declarations of actions, and join — as I have been calling for over a year — accelerated negotiations on the final settlement.

What are the options, in terms of unilateral actions, that Israel can take?

They are pretty variegated. I would not start listing them now, you can use your imagination. I'm sure you will create a very long list. I don't think we should be dragged into a discussion of it.

Why not list the actions available? If Arafat says he will declare a state, why not say explicitly what you will do?

We may have no choice but to do

'We are not prepared to have a unilateral process where Israel gives and gives, and the PA receives and receives, and gives nothing in return'

that, but I prefer to exhaust the effort initially, to resume a different dialogue, a different atmosphere.

Obviously, if we don't succeed, we will have to consider our options.

You have spoken about the small difference between a "state minus" and "autonomy plus." But whatever you call it, we are still talking about a demilitarized entity of some sort.

That's the whole point, we want to ensure it is a demilitarized entity. I don't know of too many demilitarized states, do you?

That's the question. Even if it is not a state, how can it be kept demilitarized?

By having Israel in overriding control of the international passage points, among other things. This doesn't prevent local production of weapons, but it makes it more difficult to envision tanks, artillery, heavy rockets and so on being posed on hills above Tel Aviv and Haifa, and around Jerusalem.

The minute we forfeit land and hand it over to the Palestinians, we take a very big risk. But we can minimize that risk, we can reduce that risk, by not throwing caution to the wind, by not adopting the facile position of some that we will let them have a state, let them do what they wish, let them arm themselves to the teeth, and let us close our eyes and hope for the best. We won't close our eyes.

Is there anything positive you

can say about Yasser Arafat?

Well, I hope I'll be able to sign a final settlement with him. That's what I can tell you. If we get to that point, it means that he has done what has been required of him in the agreement, and that will indeed be a very positive development.

But what about at this point?

He has done one or two things recently against Hamas, but more in response to perceived internal threats. Nevertheless, these are positive actions. They merely show that he and the Palestinian Authority have the capacity to fight terrorism if they want to.

You have said that previous governments were not under as much international pressure as this one because they made concessions. But hasn't this government moved so far in the other direction that it is inviting pressure?

No. We haven't moved in any direction, we have been consistent and true to our principles. We are not *freiers* (suckers). We are not prepared to have a unilateral process where Israel gives and gives, and the Palestinian Authority receives and receives, and gives nothing in return. It is very difficult to make that change, especially since the Palestinian Authority was habituated to receiving everything and having the international community applaud it. And, of course, Israel was patted on the back as long as it continued to give.

When we put a stop to this and demanded reciprocity, and demanded that the Palestinians fight terrorism, two things happened. One, we were assailed from every conceivable direction, and two, terrorism declined. It has not disappeared by any stretch of the imagination, it could hit us at any moment, and we are busy fighting it with our own means as well.

Do you imagine the peace with the Palestinians to be like the peace with Jordan or Egypt, a full peace treaty? Or do you imagine that there will still be open issues even after the final settlement?

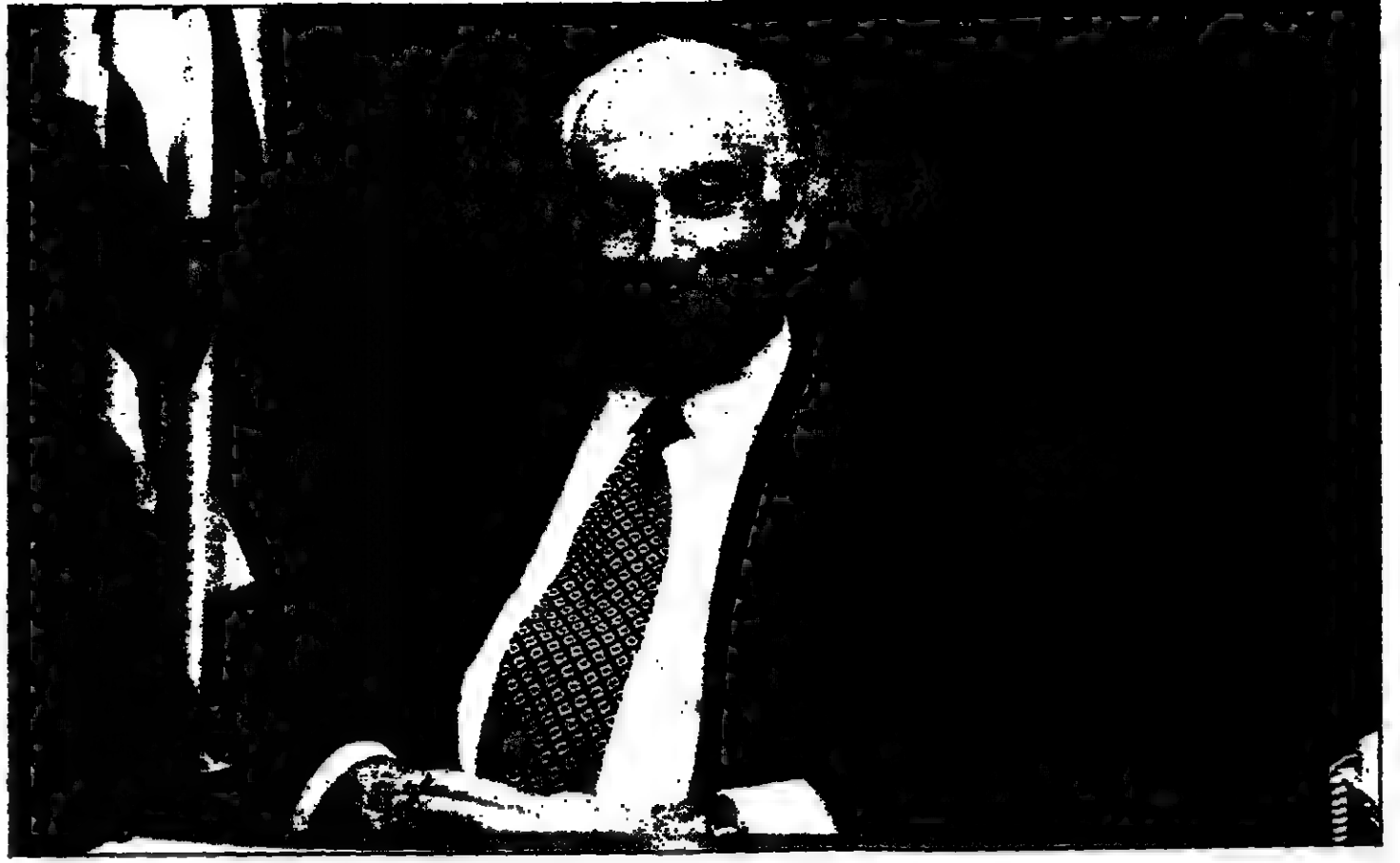
I would prefer to see a full peace treaty. With Jordan we had some issues left open, such as the precise delineation of the border. With Egypt we had something left open, which is the negotiations over autonomy. I don't know if anything will be left open with the peace treaty with the Palestinians, but I'd like to give it the stamp of finality so as to inject a very strong element of stability in what is otherwise an inherently unstable situation.

In 50 years do you think there will still be Jews living in Yitzhar, or in Bracha [two settlements near Nablus]?

Yes. I am not delineating a map for you, but our insistence has been on keeping all the settlements, that is in fact why we are undergoing this difficulty [in the negotiations]. I don't want to jeopardize the security of any one of them.

Is it possible to keep all the settlements, yet give the Palestinians a contiguous land area?

From our point of view it is



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu: 'The minute we forfeit land and hand it over to the Palestinians, we take a very big risk. But we can minimize that risk.'

What we have been looking at, dealing with, are certain conceptions — I'm not sure it would be useful to get into them here — but arrangements which permit that to happen.

Do you envision that Jews will be in Hebron in 50 years celebrating the centennial there?

In another 250 years, and many more. We have had an almost uninterrupted Jewish presence in Hebron since biblical days, with some painful interruptions in this century, and I don't intend to have that interruption resumed.

The Jewish presence in Hebron is an integral part not only of our political policy, but also of our values. It is the oldest Jewish point of settlement on earth, and it is not one we are about to forsake, whether in terms of being there or protecting the people who are there.

Given that sentiment, how do you explain that Hebron settlers are always at the forefront of demonstrations against you?

Because they are at the friction point. Our policies are different from the previous government, which was effectively to evict them by a phased method, which, happily, did not materialize.

Their ministers declared time and time again that they did not see any point to Jews living in Hebron, that it was a mixed city and therefore the Jews should leave, as though this is merely a question of demographic neatness and comfort. There are other values in Hebron; it is the Tomb of our Patriarchs, where Jews have lived for thousands of years, and we view it as a value in and of itself for Jews to continue living there for thousands more years.

What message does the talk about bringing Moleket into the government send to the country, to the Israeli Arabs?

We don't accept [Moleket's] transfer doctrine. When [Rehavam] Ze'evi joined the previous Likud government he announced that he is accepting, had to agree, to the government's platform. That will be the situation in this case as well. He will know that we do not

accept and do not adopt in any way that immigration motivated first and foremost by Zionist ideals.

You have to ask yourself what will be Ze'evi's contribution. We do not need Moleket to say no [to ratifying a second-stage withdrawal]. We probably don't need Moleket to say yes either, but it helps me to bring as many MKs together around an interim agreement, should we have one.

Will there ever be another decade in which a million Jews immigrate to Israel?

It is possible, and I would like to see it come from the West. Israel has just crossed the per capita income of western Europe, and has more scientists, technicians, technologists — relative to the size of the population — than any other country.

This is potentially the source of great wealth, because the future of wealth in the 21st century will be dominated by conceptual products. Look at the wealthiest man in the world today, Bill Gates. How much does he have today? Nobody can count his billions. But what we do know is how much he had 10 years ago. Close to zero. This is the greatest multiplication of wealth in history.

And what is true of individuals is true of nations, too. Those nations will thrive that have the ability to manipulate knowledge very rapidly in every field of human endeavor, and I believe that we are very fortunate to have that kind of advantage.

Therefore I think that Israel could — fasten your seat belts — be a very wealthy country, and I think that as the standard of living rises, it will begin to attract Jews from the West. It is already attracting Jews from parts of Great Britain that have a lower per capita income than Israel does.

I believe it will attract many Jews from South America, and many remaining Jews in Russia who are concentrated in the Moscow area, and who are doing better than they did before, but will do even better here. And I believe that we will see in the next 10 years a much larger immigration of Jews from North America.

Clearly, I would like to see all that immigration motivated first and foremost by Zionist ideals. But I also know that the span of this immigration would increase significantly if Israel is transformed, as we are rapidly transforming, into a liberal, free-market economy and society.

I think, too, that within the next decade we will see the realization of the dream of ages, namely that the majority of the Jewish people will for the first time in 2000 years live in the Land of Israel and the Jewish state. This is an unparalleled achievement that we can accelerate by doing something else on the 50th anniversary of Israel.

Up to now we received assistance, up to now assistance flowed one way, from the Diaspora to Israel. As Israel gets more prosperous, more developed, it has to start worrying about securing the Jewish people in the Diaspora by beginning to invest — this year in a symbolic way, and continuously from now on — in Jewish education, the teaching of Hebrew, the teaching of Jewish and Zionist history, the expansion of Jewish identity and pride in the Diaspora. That is the key to aliyah, the key — in my judgment — to the well-being of Jewish communities abroad. I believe that this transformation will begin this year.

I know people don't believe this, but people didn't believe me when I said that I would start to draw down on American financial aid, and we are going to conclude that agreement now.

Believe it, Israel is going to start helping the Diaspora, because that is a central task, to save the Jewish people from the abyss of assimilation. This is one the fundamental tasks facing the State of Israel as it enters the 21st century.

Does this mean Israel will start telling federations in America to keep their money there and invest in Jewish education, rather than sending it to Israel?

I'm not sure that we shouldn't send money directly, or talk to the Jewish Agency and talk about programs [in the Diaspora], joint programs, funded partly by them and

partly by us, by the budget of the Jewish state.

Can Israel do something about the fact that 60 percent of American Jews have never visited?

I think we have had three periods since the Zionist restoration. The first 50 years the Jewish people had to launch a major effort to recover what was lost in the long years of exile — Jewish sovereignty in the Jewish land.

In the next 50 years we had to struggle very hard to protect what had been achieved, and we still have our challenges ahead of us. But I believe we have been able to establish miracles.

In the next 50 years the Jewish state has to act to prevent a disintegration of Jewish life outside the Jewish state, and create a human bridge of aliyah that will both sustain the state, and, not paradoxically, sustain the communities, which will have families in Israel and in the Diaspora. That is a natural transition of a great success story.

I think Israel is the greatest success story of the 20th century, and in many ways it is the greatest triumph of a people of all the nations of history.

I walked on the fields of death in Auschwitz and Birkenau. It wasn't clear 50 years ago after the horror of the loss of European Jewry, one-third of the Jewish people, that the Jewish people could survive. And yet it is very clear that we have, it is very clear that we have a future, it is very clear that we are able to direct our destiny in ways Jews could not do so in this century.

One final question. Polls are constantly asking people to rate your first two years. On a scale of one to 10, how would you rate yourself?

I don't. I worry about leaders that think about how others will write about them, how they will rate, how will they do and so on. I worry about what I am doing for my country and my people, not how I am rated by this and that newspaper, not even, with all due respect, *The Jerusalem Post*.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

salutes its former and current faculty members and graduates who are being awarded the Israel Prize on Independence Day

Faculty:

Yehuda Bauer
Professor Emeritus
of Holocaust Studies

Yehudith Birk
Professor Emeritus
of Agricultural Biochemistry

Trude Dothan
Professor Emeritus
of Archaeology

Rami Rahamimoff
Jacob Gidin Professor
of Physiology

Yona Rosenfeld
Professor Emeritus
of Social Work

Saharon Shelah
Abraham Robinson Professor
of Mathematical Logic

Graduates:

Amos Oz
Author
Arich Lewy

Professor of Education at Tel Aviv University

The Hebrew University wishes the people of Israel and its many friends all over the world a happy Independence Day, and expresses its hopes for peace and prosperity

THE CLORE FOUNDATION

Salutes the State of Israel on its 50th Anniversary and is proud to announce the winners of the Clore 50th Anniversary Prizes

\$1,000,000 Prize
in the field of Jewish and Zionist Heritage
awarded to the Israeli Scouts "Tzofim"

\$50,000 Prizes

in the field of The Arts
awarded to "Yiddishspiel" Yiddish Theater in Israel

in the field of Absorption of Olim from the former Soviet Union
awarded to Keren Klita - Jerusalem - Aid for Russian Immigrants

in the field of Absorption of Ethiopian Olim
awarded to the Association for the Advancement of the Ethiopian Family and Child

in the field of Early Childhood Education
awarded to The NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education, School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

In the field of Israeli or Zionist Heritage
awarded to the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

in the field of the Most Disadvantaged in the Community
awarded to Melabev, Community Clubs for the Impaired Elderly

in the field of the Arab Sector
awarded to the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development

in the field of Women's Issues
awarded to One in Nine - Women for Women with Cancer

in the field of Preservation/Conservation
awarded to Adam Teva V'Din - The Israel Union for Environmental Defense

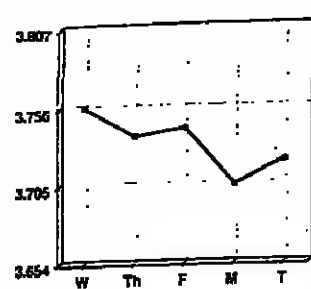
in the field of Religious Pluralism and Tolerance
awarded to Sovlanut/Tolerance - A Non-Partisan Movement Against Violence

The award ceremony will take place at the President's Residence on Tues. day, May 12, 1998, at 12 noon. Entrance by invitation only.

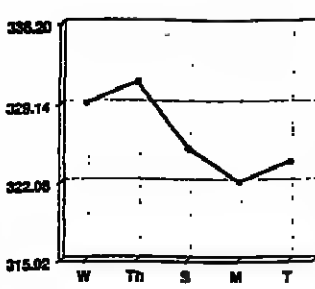
MARKETS

in brief

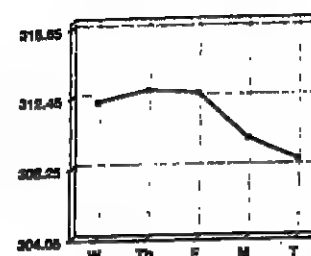
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



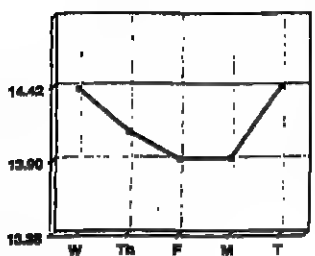
MAOF INDEX



GOLD
\$ per ounce



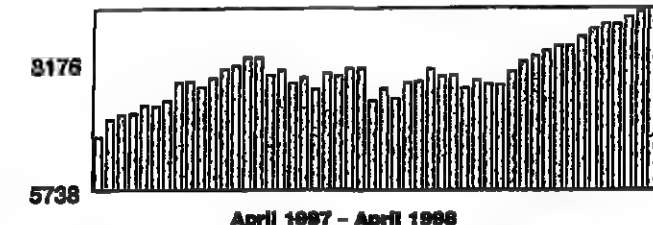
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



BITS AND BYTES

By NINA SILBERT

Chase Manhattan buys Seal Systems product

Chase Manhattan Bank has purchased the Authorizer electronic signature system developed by Jerusalem start-up Seal Systems, in the company's first major deal and first sale in the United States. In the first phase, the product will be used in the company's New York headquarters and will then be installed in the rest of the bank's offices. The product, Privaseal, is the OEM version of the Authorizer marketed by the Kfar Sava-based Alirio. The product was named Best Executive Perk by *Time* magazine at this year's CeBIT conference. The Authorizer is a digital signature system which enables the transfer of authorized materials electronically, thus saving on the costs of printing and sending documents. Marketing vice president Sheldon Shulman said the "purchase of the product by a premier financial institution, which can buy anything it wants, shows that we read the market correctly. The deal is a breakthrough into the US market." Shulman said the company is close to closing deals with major companies for the inclusion of the product in software packages.

ECI gets \$18m. in orders from Brazil

ECI Telecom this week won two contracts via Istelecom, valued at some \$18 million, to supply systems for Brazil's national telecommunications company, Embratel. One contract is to supply a system for detection and correction of transmission difficulties on fiber-optic links. The new product, the QuadCoder 300, allows for the cheaper operation of domestic cellular networks. The second contract is for the supply of circuit compression equipment to facilitate voice and fax traffic via cable and satellite over Embratel's international links. Istelecom, an integrator of telecommunications systems, is a member of the Claridge Group. The Petah Tikva-based ECI produces telecommunications network and data transmission solutions. The company has sold tens of millions of dollars worth of systems in Brazil.

Microsoft cracks down on Israeli piracy

Microsoft Israel said this week that has launched a crackdown on piracy in Israel and has initiated legal proceedings against five companies distributing pirated software. Suits have been filed recently against five companies, including Jerusalem's Mahshevim Yashir, Ramat Gan's Logic Israel, Rehovot's Epsilon computers, the Tivon computer company, and B. Eitani of Beersheba. Microsoft claims that the companies have sold computers containing pirated software. During his recent visit here, Microsoft's No. 2 official, Steve Ballmer, said Israel's piracy rate stands at about 68%, which is higher than other Western countries. This costs the company losses of \$50 million a year in Israel alone. According to Ami Fleisher, head of Microsoft Israel's copyright and piracy department, the company will also launch an information campaign against piracy.

Smart card industry leaders set standard

Twelve computer industry leaders involved in smart card technologies, including the Israeli start-up First Access, announced a decision on a technological standard this week. The new technology, called OpenCard Framework 1.0 (OCF), will enable software developers to create smart card applications that can be used across a variety of devices, such as PCs, network computers and point of sale terminals. The companies established an ad hoc industry group to simplify the use of smart card technology across different systems. Other members of the group, the OpenCard Consortium, include Bull Personal Transaction Systems, Dallas Semiconductors, IBM, Netscape Communications Corp., Sun Microsystems and Visa International. The Haifa-based First Access is an industry leader in contactless smart card technology.

Level 8, Mitsui sign cooperation agreement

Level 8 Systems has signed a cooperation agreement with Japanese company Mitsui & Co., which will market its FalconMQ messaging product in the Japanese market. Mitsui is also to make the product compatible for the Japanese market, which is necessary to enable users in Japan and the Far East process material in Japanese and other Asian languages. Level 8, based in New York, has its R&D center here, and is a subsidiary of Liraz Systems.

Neeman briefs Frenkel only 2 hours before public

Frenkel kept in the dark over currency reform details

By DAVID HARRIS

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel was informed of the exact implementation process for the currency liberalization just two hours before the details were presented to the press, according to senior sources in the central bank.

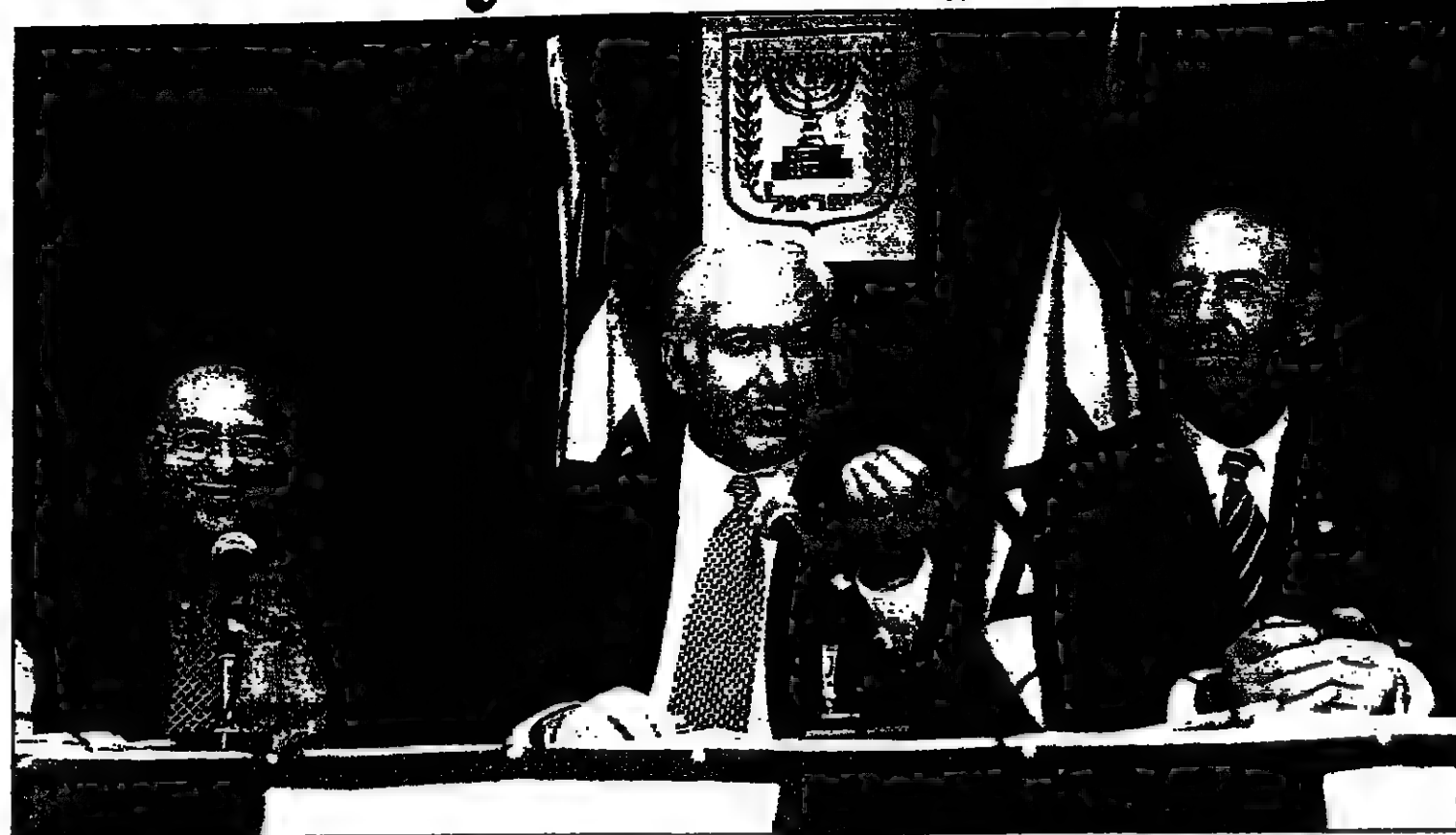
Finance Minister Ya'akov Neeman announced to journalists that next week the supervisor of foreign currency at the bank will issue a general permit allowing full freedom for currency transactions on the part of Israelis. At an as yet unspecified time after that, the government will introduce a reform of the Supervision of Foreign Currency Law, which will enshrine the changes.

Neeman told Frenkel of this plan in a corner of the Knesset Finance Committee room immediately after informing MKs of the general plan and before meeting journalists waiting outside the room, the sources explained.

In recent days, Frenkel had made absolutely clear that the changes must not be implemented until the statute books were updated through Knesset legislation. However, Neeman, in a bid to push the liberalization package through on time, decided on the general permit.

While denying bank officials were angry or disappointed by the decision-making process, one said "yes it is ridiculous, but that's the reality."

A second central bank official added that there is concern that introducing the legislative



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, flanked by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (left), and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, yesterday presented the liberalization plan, which aims to turn the shekel into a fully convertible currency. (Ariel Jerozolimsky)

changes may prove to be harder than is currently envisaged and therefore may take time to pass through the Knesset.

Any such time lag would make it easier for citizens to take advantage of the new regulations without being forced to submit the

legally required reports on overseas activities.

Prior to the press conference, Labor's economic affairs spokesman, Avraham Shohat, attacked the government for deciding to press ahead with the measures before announcing the

relevant tax changes and introducing separate legislation necessary ahead of their implementation.

Neeman said at yesterday's news conference that at a later stage he will introduce legislation to cover the tax issue.

This leaves open the question as to whether the taxes imposed on earnings overseas will be retroactively imposed from the time the liberalization measures come into effect. However, Frenkel said "the Finance Ministry has already said they won't be retroactive."

European bond market prepares to flex muscles

By ZIMRI SMITH

LONDON (Bloomberg) — European bond markets will take a major step towards challenging the US as the world's biggest bond market this weekend when the European Union selects the countries that will found the euro in January.

The selection is the last major step before 11 European bond markets in January effectively become a single \$7 trillion pool of government and corporate debt.

The extent to which Europe successfully steals the thunder of the \$10 trillion US debt market hinges on the strength of the new single European currency against the dollar, investors said.

The real question in the years ahead will be how the euro will come together, said Vic Thompson, who oversees \$150 billion of fixed-income securities at State Street Global Advisors in Boston.

Last month, the European Commission recommended admission of all 11 nations that were hopeful of joining the single currency: Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Finland.

While governments have until 2001 to redenominate existing debt into the new currency, the bulk of European bonds are expected to convert immediately to making payments in euros.

Joined together, "longer term, the European currencies, and therefore the euro, will begin to pick up ground and should perform well" against currencies such as the dollar and the British pound, said Rod Davidson, who helps oversee \$1 billion at Murray Johnstone Asset Management in Glasgow.

It's likely to take some time for the European Central Bank, which will oversee the euro from its inception in January, to win the confidence of international investors.

With double-digit unemployment plaguing several European countries, central bankers may be less inclined to fight inflation and put a damper on economic growth by raising interest rates, said Claudio Zampa, head of fixed-income trading at Bank of America in London.

"I think [the euro] will not be very strong at the beginning," he said. "It will be more advantageous for many countries to have it a little weak" to reduce the threat of driving up unemployment rates, Zampa said.

Public holds only 38% of TASE shares

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Figures published by the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange show that public holdings in outstanding stocks traded on the bourse remained low in 1997, limiting the public's influence on companies' managements.

According to the report, the public holds only 38 percent of the companies that are included in the Tel Aviv 100 index of large firms. The figure is substantially higher than the average public holdings of 33% of all shares traded on the TASE and holdings of only 27.4% in company stocks which are not included in the TA-100 index. The number does not include, however, the companies which are subject to the privatization process, in which the public holds only 25%.

Despite that, the public holds more than NIS 1 billion in each of the privatized companies, which include Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank,

Bezeq and Israel Chemicals. The public's holding in these companies has also increased from 17.6% at the end of 1993 to 24.2% at the end of last year.

The figures suggest that despite the fact that the government has reduced its holdings in publicly traded companies, holders of majority stakes actually control most of the companies, thus limiting the possibility of hostile takeovers and battles for control, which in turn reduces the public's power to influence management.

This can clearly be seen by the fact that the public holds more than 50% in only 65 shares; of these, the public holds more than half of the equity and voting rights in just 36.

The majority of these companies are listed both on the TASE and on the US markets. Other companies in which the public holds a majority are firms that face serious difficulties. By contrast, in 140 companies, 20% of the TASE, the public controls less than 15%.

The report authors, Kobi Avramov

and Shimon Raz, also show that in the 84 companies, which are included in the TA-100 index and were already traded in 1993, public holdings remained unchanged.

Meanwhile, government holdings fell during 1997 from 16.5% to only 11.3% marking the success of the government efforts to reduce its holdings in public companies.

The government last year sold shares in public companies for NIS 8.2b, including the sale of the controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim, the sale of a stake in Israel Chemicals to the Israel Corporation and part of Bezeq to American investment house Merrill Lynch.

In addition, the government has reduced its holdings in Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank.

Foreign investors who are interested parties (with holdings of

more than 5% in a company), held about 9% of all stocks on the TA-100 in 1997, compared with less than 8% in the remaining years.

Total holdings of foreign interested parties rose by 1.5% to 8.5% in 1997. The rise is attributed to the sale of Bank Hapoalim shares to the Arison Group, of which a third were foreigners, and to the purchase of additional shares in Koor Industries by Claridge Israel, who took control of Israel's largest holding company last year.

The rise was also affected by the sale of a controlling stake in Leumi Insurance to Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali.

Public holdings in shares which are traded on the TASE amounted at the end of 1997 to NIS 52b, which is equivalent to 33.1% of the total value of stocks, compared with 32.3% in 1996.

Japan's largest finance company eyes more investments here

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Japan's largest venture capital fund, Japan Associated Finance Co., is looking to expand its activities here, Hiroshi Ikegaya, a senior investment officer, told the *Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"We view Israel as one of our target countries," Ikegaya said. "We are currently examining seriously one company and hope to look at another three to five companies this year." The Japanese fund began investing in Israel last year.

This week the fund invested \$1 million in Tel Aviv-based Radgurd in addition to a previous \$1m. investment at the end of 1997 in another local start up company, ShellCase.

Radgurd, of the RAD Group, is a developer of network security systems. The company holds already cooperative agreements with several Japanese companies including NTT Data, Sumitomo Metal and Toshiba Engineering. Jerusalem-based ShellCase, which is controlled by another Japanese company Toyo Ink, is a developer and manufacturer of chip size packaging technology for semi-conductor devices.

"We can help the Israeli companies with getting access to Asian countries and assist them in finding potential customers in the region," Ikegaya said. "We have good connections in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other countries."

JAFECO was established in 1973 by some of Japan's largest financial institutions including Nomura Securities Co., Nippon Life Insurance Co., and the Sanwa Bank. The principal activities of the company are investing in and offering consulting and information services to private companies with high potential for future growth. Since its establishment JAFECO made investments in a total of nearly 1,800 venture businesses, backed the initial public offerings of some 460 companies, and managed 51 partnership funds with a cumulative 262.5 billion yen (\$2b.) in committed capital provided by institutional investors and business corporations around the world.

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KADAM

CAPITALIZATION

SECRET

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

INDEPENDENCE DAY

HELEN KAYE

In Tel Aviv, big celebrations at Rabin Square and Park Darom from 9 p.m. with fireworks at 10 and 11 p.m. From 11 p.m., a sing-along at the Tel Aviv Museum plaza.

In Jerusalem, entertainment on stages all over town including Zion Square, Gilo Park, Independence Gardens and the City Center, with fireworks starting from 10:15 on.

Haifa has a rock marathon at the Kiryat Eliezer Stadium starting at midnight and before that, fun from 9 p.m. and fireworks (at 9:50 p.m.) on stages all over town, including the Haifa Auditorium plaza, Kiryat Eliezer promenade and on the Haifa.

In Beersheba, the show is on the municipality plaza with fireworks and pyrotechnical wonders at 9:45 p.m.

There are similar celebrations at the Rishon LeZion Amphitheater and the Hamashbir plaza in Ra'anana and all over the country.

If you're a visitor, check with your hotel.



Itzhak Perlman joins the IPO for a gala concert

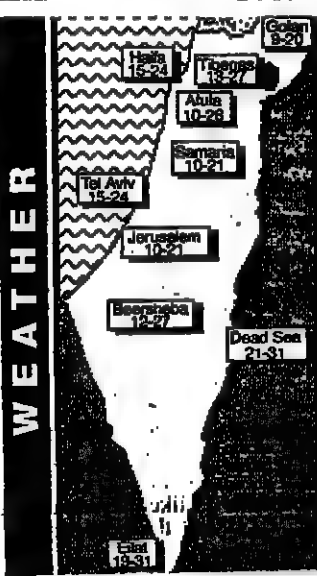
CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Israel's leading orchestras celebrate the 50th anniversary with festive concerts. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and Zubin Mehta present a grand gala in true IPO style. Itzhak Perlman and Pinhas Zukerman play Bach's concerto for two violins and Mozart's symphony concerto for violin and viola. Yefim Bronfman plays Beethoven's second piano concerto, and sensational mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli makes her IPO debut singing arias by Mozart and Rossini. Mehta leads the orchestra in works

by Paul Ben-Haim and Noam Sheriff. Tonight (9) at the Jerusalem International Convention Center and Thursday (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. On Saturday (9) Mehta takes the IPO to the open air in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park with soloists Perlman, Bronfman, as well as Rita, Haya Samir and others in a program of classical and popular music.

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra performs tonight (9:15) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem under the baton of music director David Shalton, who leads the orchestra in Berlioz's *Roman Carnival* overture and Ravel's *Boleto*. Violist extraordinaire Itzhak Perlman plays Paganini's *Sonata for Violin and Cello*, and singer Esther Ofarim sings some of her all-time greatest hits.



AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Weather
Jerusalem	18-22	cloudy
Tel Aviv	20-24	cloudy
Haifa	16-20	cloudy
Beersheba	22-27	cloudy
Dead Sea	21-31	cloudy
London	10-14	cloudy
New York	18-22	cloudy
Los Angeles	18-22	cloudy
San Francisco	14-18	cloudy
Paris	12-16	cloudy
Madrid	14-18	cloudy
Rome	16-20	cloudy
Amsterdam	10-14	cloudy
Stockholm	8-12	cloudy
Oslo	6-10	cloudy
Reykjavik	4-8	cloudy
Helsinki	6-10	cloudy
Tallinn	8-12	cloudy
Riga	10-14	cloudy
Vilnius	12-16	cloudy
Kiev	14-18	cloudy
Moscow	16-20	cloudy
St. Petersburg	18-22	cloudy
Warsaw	16-20	cloudy
Berlin	14-18	cloudy
Frankfurt	12-16	cloudy
Munich	10-14	cloudy
Zurich	8-12	cloudy

WINNING CARDS

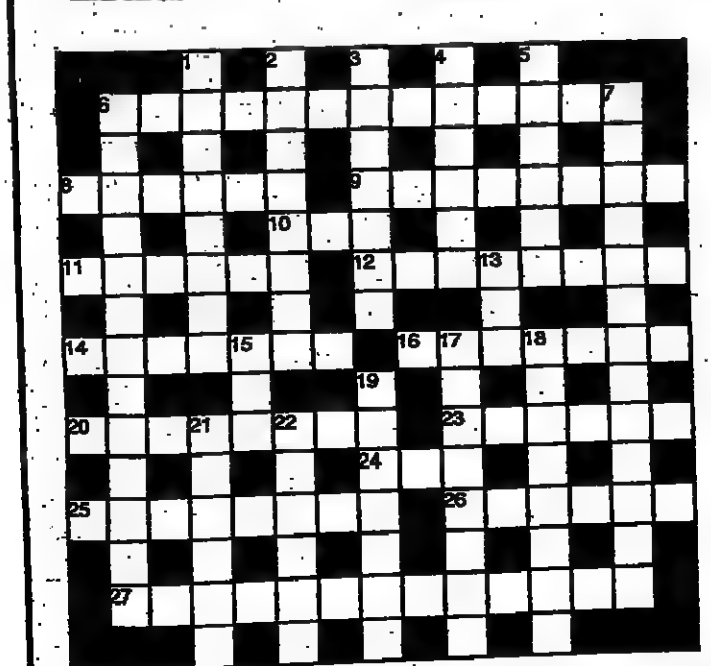
in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing



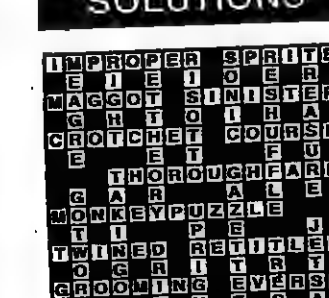
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Switting the seasons? (6,3,4)
 - Depression after an attack, perhaps (8)
 - False story about ringleader produces bad feeling (8)
 - Priest quite absorbed in his religion (3)
 - Reinforce complaint that's raised (4,2)
 - See great changes in economy travel (8)
 - Levish praise (7)
 - Learned English with Trudie, perhaps (7)
 - Possible secret of not having to pay (4,4)
 - They're paid for it on board after six (8)
- DOWN
- About to swallow duck eggs (3)
 - Being so one may react rashly with unusual grace (8)
 - Takes things the wrong way (6)
 - It's staff run a meals-on-wheels service (10,3)
 - Files put in the wrong order with malicious intent (8)
 - Pet cried out, on its last legs (8)
 - From a service angle is careless in dress (7)
 - Publicity in place of helpful suggestions (6)



SOLUTIONS

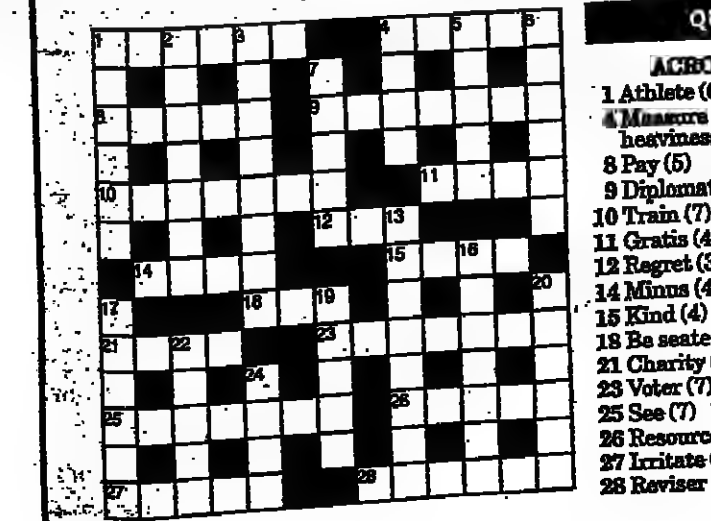


Quick Solution

ACROSS: 4 Cocker, 5 Hoop, 7 Radical, 10 Mocha, 11 Fuzzle, 12 Lady, 14 Kibbutz, 15 Swami, 16 Assemblé, 20 Bing, 21 Dazzle, 22 Rats, 23 Scurry.

DOWN: 1 Scip, 2 Metal, 3 Polcast, 4 Claw, 5 Felite, 6 Conzang, 9 Limited, 10 Mocha, 13 Twich, 14 Emmanu, 17 Mocha, 18 Crane, 19 Lopp.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Athlete (6)
 - Manana hostesses (6)
 - Pay (5)
 - Diplomatic (7)
 - Train (7)
 - Gratia (4)
 - Regret (3)
 - Minna (4)
 - Be seated (3)
 - Charity (4)
 - Voter (7)
 - See (7)
 - Resources (5)
 - Leizitate (5)
 - Reviser (6)
- DOWN
- Recompense (6)
 - Lady's nightwear (7)
 - Simplicity (8)
 - Candle card (4)
 - Decease (6)
 - Headstall (6)
 - Direct (5)
 - Respected (8)
 - Draw back (7)
 - Chinese building (6)
 - Maxim (5)
 - Rubber (6)
 - Stoneworker (5)
 - Frases (4)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 With the Families of the Fallen
8:30 His Fate Was Sealed on the Day He Was Born
8:50 Child Grief - a Canadian documentary about how children learn to live with the pain of losing a dear one, including conversations with the children and interviews with child experts
9:55 A Matter of Time
10:25 Frontline
11:00 Remembrance Day Ceremony from Mt. Herzl
11:30 To Give Without Wanting to Take
12:05 So That I Won't Be Lost
13:00 Sword in the Valley
13:30 We Still Remember the Smile
14:15 Dance for a Friend
14:25 A Soldier's Morn
15:00 Grief in Lebanon
15:30 Lines from The War
16:00 Trumpet and Piano
16:30 My Brother, My Sister
17:00 To Give Without Wanting to Take
17:25 Brothers On Fire
18:15 News in English
18:30 South Lebanon
19:00 News
19:30 Roundup of Remembrance Day events
19:50 Closing Remembrance Day Ceremony and Opening Day of Independence Day Celebrations
21:00 The Country's Treasury - national treasure hunt
21:15 Celebrating the Jubilee
22:40 The Country's Treasury
22:45 Independence Day Songs into the Night
23:00 News
1:05 House Soldiers - John Wayne stars as a Civil War Colonel who sets out with his soldiers to subvert a railroad in rebel territory and is confronted with plenty of problems within his own camp on route. With William Holden and John Ford
2:00 Verses of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

8:00 Today's program: 6:45 On the Edge of the Shell
8:00 Rupert Bear
8:30 The Three Little Pigs
8:45 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The Third Time
9:30 The Battle for Mafet
11:00 Remembrance Day Ceremony
11:40 Israel Songs
12:00 Memories of the Sea
12:30 Memories from Life
13:00 Open Cards
13:30 Ronni's Life
14:00 Junior News
15:00 Meeting Point
15:30 A Matter of Time
16:00 To Remember
16:30 Child Grief
17:00 With the Grieving Families
17:30 The Road to Happiness (1996) - a young woman is determined to become a famous Mizrahi singer and leaves her family and friends behind on the way. With Michal Shalev and Gali Nini
22:40 1812 Overture (Hebrew, 1997) - Original drama by Herscovici Not about a young soldier who is desperate to go home on leave to see his pregnant girlfriend. He is released, he steals a tank and threatens to shell the bridge commander's building. With Ami Smolochik, Tinkabell, and Karmi Mor.
23:40 The Other Half
24:00 The Saboteur - six consecutive special reruns of the local dating game
2:15 Fortis and Saharav - performance by the singer Rami Fortis with guests Rami Saharav and Shlomi Bracha
3:45 Dan Toren in Concert
Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel Wars - United broadcasts with Channel 3 20:30 Independence

CHANNEL 3

8:00 News
8:30 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel
9:00 News
9:30 News in Arabic
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10:00 News
10:30 News in Arabic
10:45 Good Morning Israel
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CHANNEL 4

8:00 News
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8:45 Good Morning Israel
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CHANNEL 5

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CHANNEL 7

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WEDNESDAY PRIME TIME

Time	Channel 1	Channel 2	Channel 3	Channel 4	Channel 5	Channel 6	Channel 7
19:30	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
20:00	Remembrance Day events Closing Ceremony	Torch Lighting Ceremony from Mt. Herzl	My Life and Yours	Independence Day Broadcasts	How Do You Spell God?	This Week Fifty Years Ago	This Week Fifty Years Ago
20:30	Remembrance Day Ceremony	My Life and Yours	Independence Day Broadcasts	How Do You Spell God?	This Week Fifty Years Ago	This Week Fifty Years Ago	This Week Fifty Years Ago
21:00	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
21:30	Celebrating the Jubilee	Jubilee Celebrations	The Road to Happiness	Blockbuster Awards Ceremony from LA	Operation Petticoat	This Week Fifty Years Ago	This Week Fifty Years Ago
22:00	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
22:30	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
23:00	News	News	News	News	News	News	News

MOVIES

19:30 Sword in the Valley
19:40 Ronni's Life
19:45 So That I Won't Be Lost
19:50 News
20:00 News in Arabic
20:15 Good Morning Israel
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21:00 News
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21:45 Good Morning Israel
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different way. With Cary Grant and Tony Curtis. 00:15 The Left-Handed Gun (1958, 97 mins.) - Arthur Penn's last feature film, a psychological portrait of the career of Western outlaw Billy the Kid. With Paul Newman, John Huston and John Dehner.

19:30 News
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SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

He reportedly vowed that he will not "be drawn into that kind of fruitless dialogue."

These disclosures were accompanied by a reference to US peace envoy Dennis Ross. "He is generally regarded as the good guy," the source said, "but he was told that if he fails to win a deal based on Israeli concessions this time, there will be no more Middle East missions for him."

The Cairo summit embraced three issues: the deadlocked negotiations with the PA, Israel's offer to withdraw from southern Lebanon on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425, and the case of Azzam Azzam, the Israeli citizen imprisoned in Egypt for espionage.

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MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS	May 12	May 11
WEB PUBLISHING	May 4	May 13
HIGH-TECH SALES AND MARKETING	May 12	May 11
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (6 courses)	May 18	June 16
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (6 courses)	Oct. 5	May 26
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	June 4	Apr. 27
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	June 4	Apr. 27
CERTIFIED NOVELL ADMINISTRATOR	Feb. 24	May 13
"A++" PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (Including CNAI)	May 17	Apr. 29
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT (Using Director)	Mar. 1	Apr. 25
JAVA, VISUAL J++ Programming	N/A	Mar. 22
JAVA, VISUAL J++ Non Programmers	N/A	June 21
C/C++ PROGRAMMING (Marketing Seminars)	N/A	Mar. 16
C/C++ PROGRAMMING (Training Seminars)	Apr. 28	May 4
VISUAL C++	May 12	Apr. 27
VISUAL BASIC	May 13	Apr. 27
COMPUTER GRAPHICS	May 12	May 15

High-Tech Show
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